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# AGRI-NEWS

CANADIANA

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October 8, 1990
For immediate release

# Alberta harvest virtually complete

Sunny skies through September allowed most Alberta farmers to complete harvest well ahead of schedule say Alberta Agriculture specialists.

By the month's end, 95 per cent of harvest was complete, well ahead of the five year average of 66 per cent for this time of year, says crop statistician Michelle Gietz, of the statistics branch. "Some late-seeded and speciality crops still are being taken off, but harvest is virtually finished."

"Warm, dry frost-free conditions during the month of September gave farmers ideal harvesting weather," says Peter Dzikowski, weather resource specialist with the conservation and development branch in Edmonton.

Temperatures were one to four degrees Celsius above normal during September, he says. During the first three weeks of the month, temperatures reached into the high 20s and low 30s and records were set in some areas. Average monthly temperatures were between two and four degrees above normal in the south and one and a half to three degrees above normal in central and northern areas.

By the end of the month, overnight temperatures were cool, but frost wasn't a factor in the harvest. Minimum temperatures were above freezing most nights, and killing frosts weren't experienced until the latter part of September.

But the stretch of dry weather was just as important to the prolonged good harvesting weather. September rainfall was well below normal in most of the province. Southern Alberta had zero to 15 mm of rain, ranging up to only 36 per cent of the norm. Central and northern regions reported one to 25 mm of rain, between one and 50 per cent of their long term averages. Foothills regions received just slightly below normal rainfall.

(Cont'd)

The highest rainfall total in September was the 40.4 mm recorded at Edson. This was 91 per cent of its normal monthly total. At the extremely dry end of the scale, Manyberries reported zero precipitation and Bow Island reported 1.3 mm (three per cent of the normal).

Favorable weather helped keep grain grades high says Gietz and crop yields are about average.

Lack of rain has taken a toll on pastures and hay says Gietz. In general, precipitation will be needed to replenish soil moisture reserves and improve conditions for fall tillage.

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October 8, 1990
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GATT realities demand change to Crow Benefit method of payment

The desired outcome of current General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) negotiations will require changes to the way Western Canada's historic Crow Benefit is paid, say Agriculture Minister Ernie Isley and Associate Agriculture Minister Shirley McClellan.

"The primary objective of the Governments of Canada and Alberta in this round of GATT talks is the elimination of export subsidies," says Isley. "The importance of achieving this goal to the future of Western Canada's export-oriented agriculture industry cannot be overstated."

Despite this year's bumper crops, Western Canadian farmers face an increasingly difficult situation due to severely depressed world grain prices. Prices have been driven down as a result of the intensifying export subsidy war between the United States and the European Community. Agricultural trade experts are hoping that an end to the subsidy war can be brought about through an agreement under the GATT.

"Farmers in Alberta and across Western Canada are already hurting badly as a result of the U.S.-EC trade war, and prices are likely to go lower still if the battle is allowed to continue," Isley says. "The status quo is unacceptable for our farmers -- we need a substantial deal for agriculture in the GATT talks."

"If we want our trading partners to eliminate export subsidies, we must show them that we in Canada are serious in our commitment to reform agricultural trade," says McClellan. "If Western Canadian agriculture doesn't want to lose control over the future of the Crow Benefit, we must change the method of payment so that it is no longer a source of concern for our trading partners."

The agriculture ministers note the Crow Benefit, as it is currently paid to the railways, has been identified by Canada's trading partners as an export subsidy.

(Cont'd)

GATT realities demand change to Crow Benefit method of payment (cont'd)

"The current method of payment makes the Crow Benefit very difficult to defend in international trade negotiations, while Canada is demanding an end to export subsidies," says Isley. "The best way to save the Crow Benefit from attack by our export competitors is to buy it out and put the money in the hands of farmers."

McClellan notes, "No matter how the Crow Benefit is viewed here in Western Canada, it has been targeted as an export subsidy by the international community. In the event of a GATT agreement, our farmers face the possibility of drastic reduction or even elimination of the Crow Benefit as it is currently paid. It is essential that our industry examine alternatives to the current method of payment."

Last week, Alberta's agriculture ministers released "Freedom to Choose", a proposal for prairie-wide change in the method of payment of the Crow Benefit. The proposal calls for a federal government buy out of the Crow Benefit that would put the money in the hands of producers, to be used as they saw fit. Rather than being an export subsidy, the Crow would become a general support mechanism, and one that would provide a boost to the agricultural economy at a time of great need.

"Right now," says McClellan, "the Crow Benefit distorts domestic prices for grains, discourages value-adding in the agriculture industry, and encourages export of our primary agricultural commodities, of jobs, and of economic activity. Under the Freedom to Choose proposal, control over marketing, transportation, and production decisions would be returned to farmers, resulting in substantial benefits throughout the agriculture industry."

"We're asking everyone with a stake in Western Canada's agriculture industry to give serious consideration to Alberta Agriculture's Freedom to Choose proposal, and to provide us with their feedback and suggestions for improvement," says Isley. "It is vital to the future of Western Canada's agricultural economy that control over the Crow Benefit be placed in the hands of Western Canadian farmers."

(Cont'd)

Anyone wishing to know more about the method of payment of the Crow Benefit and about the Alberta Agriculture proposal for change is encouraged to use the "Freedom to Choose Hotline", a direct, toll-free telephone line to staff who will answer questions and provide information. The number is 1-800-661-0056. The line will be open from 8:15 am to 4:30 pm Alberta time, from October 1st through December 21, 1990.

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# Shipping fever vaccination has limited effect

The real effectiveness of cattle vaccines designed to reduce shipping fever in fall weaned calves is still open to question says an Alberta Agriculture veterinarian.

"It's unreasonable to expect vaccines to prevent a stress induced management disease associated with the way beef calves are marketed in Alberta," says Casey Schipper of the health management branch.

Stress includes all the things done to calves between the time they're weaned and get settled in a feedlot. Shipping fever is difficult to prevent in groups of stressed, fall weaned calves, even under good feedlot management conditions, he says, since stress interplays with disease organisms.

Vaccines are designed to provide immunity from these disease organisms, particularly viruses and bacteria commonly found in the lungs. They include Infectious Bovine Rhinotracheitis (IBR), Bovine Virus Diarrhea (BVD), Parainfluenza-3 ($PI_3$), Bovine Respiratory Syncytial Virus (BRSV), Hemophilus Somnus infection (HS) and Pasteurella Hemolytica.

"When a stressed and bawling group of calves from different origins are crowded, sorted, mixed and transported and processed together, some or all of these 'bugs' can cause disease," says Schipper.

While a variety of cattle vaccines are available to combat the range of diseases, their effectiveness is limited when given to calves when they arrive at the feedlot, says Schipper.

For example, the well-known IBR/$PI_3$ vaccine is very popular with feedlot operators, he says, and most cattle are vaccinated when they arrive. The vaccine requires at least 10 days for immunity to develop and a booster dose for adequate immunity. But, most calves come down with shipping fever anyway during the first few weeks in the feedlot, says Schipper.

(Cont'd)

"Because the IBR (rednose) virus is so common, vaccination is essential. A better vaccination program is giving a first dose at least three weeks before weaning as part of a preimmunization program, followed by a booster shot at weaning.

"The vaccine's real benefit, if given only once to animals at feedlot arrival is unknown and is believed by some to be harmful," Schipper says.

As well, he adds, there's no evidence that BVD vaccines stimulate protection against shipping fever or mucosal disease, the deadly form of BVD. Nor, are the benefits of vaccinating against BRSV clear. Recent trials in Saskatchewan showed a small reduction in treatment rates in vaccinated cattle might not justify the total cost of vaccination. Results from recent Canadian field trials on Hemophilus vaccines followed that same trend. The results were difficult to interpret and failed to provide grounds for sound vaccination recommendations, says Schipper.

Closer to home, a recent Alberta feedlot study tested a new Pasteurella vaccine. In the trials, no major benefits to vaccination were seen and the researchers concluded the source of the cattle was a major factor affecting the incidence and/or effect of pneumonia.

"All these studies make it clear that vaccination of stressed calves against shipping fever when they arrive at a feedlot is largely ineffective. A preimmunization program makes more sense, and management techniques which involve stress reduction are best," says Schipper.

Practical ways to healthier calves include preconditioning, buying calves directly from a farm or ranch, and improved transportation and sales methods. Handling and processing management when calves arrive at the feedlot should be aimed at stress reduction and maximizing animal comfort, he adds.

Detailed information on this subject is available in a new Alberta Agriculture factsheet. "Keeping feedlot calves healthy" (Agdex 420/661-1) is available from Alberta Agriculture district offices. For more information, contact Schipper in Edmonton at 436-9343.



Contact: Dr. Casey Schipper
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October 8, 1990
For immediate release

# Vaccination tips for pregnant beef cattle

Producers can reduce abortion risks in their cattle with appropriate vaccines says an Alberta Agriculture veterinarian.

"Reproductive failure in pregnant cows is a common concern of Alberta cow/calf producers at weaning time," says Casey Schipper of the health management branch. Every winter Alberta Agriculture's veterinary diagnostic laboratories identify numerous cases of abortions caused by infectious bovine rhinotracheitis (IBR) and bovine virus diarrhea (BVD).

Both viruses can endanger fetuses carried by pregnant cattle, and outbreaks of both can be prevented by timely vaccinations, says Schipper. "Timing, either in fall or spring, depends on the disease and type of vaccine. The variety of different types and brands of cattle vaccinations available for this purpose is truly astounding.

"But, the best way to prevent abortions from either virus is to vaccinate open cows in the spring before breeding. This way, the fetus is protected throughout gestation. It also eliminates the need to handle and vaccinate pregnant cows in the fall."

Abortions caused by IBR are common during late pregnancy and are unpredictable. Schipper recommends intranasal IBR vaccines for pregnant cattle at risk. Female breeding stock vaccinated with modified-live IBR vaccines in the spring, don't need to be revaccinated in the fall. But, cows vaccinated with a killed IBR vaccine before breeding may require a booster dose of an intranasal or killed product to enhance their protection. "Remember, a live intramusclar vaccine must never be given to a pregnant cow," he cautions.

The value of vaccinating pregnant cattle against BVD in the fall isn't recognized by all veterinarians he says. Researchers have clearly established that naturally occurring BVD virus destroys or permanently damages the unborn calf only during the early stages of pregnancy. By September or October, or later, the period of serious risk of BVD to calves due in February and March is over. So, fall vaccination is too late and not economically sound.

(Cont'd)

If the producer does desire fall vaccination, two doses of a killed vaccine must be given three weeks apart to encourage adequate antibody production. Live BVD vaccines shouldn't be given intramuscularly to pregnant cattle, he cautions.

Leptospirosis, a bacterial disease, can also cause late pregnancy abortions. However, it's rare in Alberta. "A local veterinarian should be consulted before vaccinating for Leptospirosis because of the low risk. Economically, vaccination should only be considered where this disease is commonly recognized," he says. Leptospirosis is more common in hot humid climates with alkaline soils and an abundance of wildlife and surface water.

Because of vaccine costs and the labour required to handle cattle, Schipper recommends producers ask their local veterinarian about up-to-date information on the local incidence of infectious reproductive diseases and the advantages and disadvantages of vaccinating pregnant cows at this time of year.

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Contact: Dr. Casey Schipper
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# Sturgeon Rural Crime Watch fans out

Members of the Sturgeon Rural Crime Watch Association are now linked by high technology telecommunications.

The technology is a computer fan out system that allows the local RCMP detachment to instantly contact all the association's members. "This replaces the cumbersome manual fan out system," says Cliff Munroe, of Alberta Agriculture's Farmers' Advocate Office. "RCMP officers can now record a message about a crime they need assistance with and the computer will take over and send the message to all crime watch members whose telephone numbers have been pre-recorded on a tape."

Besides assisting police locate suspect vehicles and people, the fan out has a number of other uses. A partial list includes recovering stolen property, gathering people for meetings, alerting members to committed crimes and warnings about con-artists travelling in the area. "The great thing about the technology is that its uses are only limited by the imagination," says Munroe.

The St. Paul Greater Lake Land Rural Crime Watch Association pioneered using the system in Alberta, says Munroe. "Over the past year, they've found the system very useful for police investigations in the greater St. Paul area."

Planning is currently underway for fan out systems in Didsbury, Spirit River, Athabasca, Grande Centre and Airdrie. "It's hoped that in a few years all Rural Crime Watch Assocations will have a similar system and there can be provincial networking.

"Other groups, such as Chambers of Commerce, rural volunteer fire departments and municipalities have expressed interest in co-operating with local Rural Crime Watch groups to use the fan out system," he says.

For more information about the Rural Crime Watch program or the fan out system, contact the Farmers' Advocate's Office in Edmonton at 427-2433 or the RCMP "K" Division, Crime Prevention section, in Edmonton at 471-9435.

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Contact: Cliff Munroe
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# Agribusinesses win export awards

Four Alberta agribusinesses were among 19 businesses honored with export achievement awards as part of October's Export Month in Alberta.

The four are: Alberta Ag-Industries (AA-I) of Westlock; Selex Trading Ltd. of Edmonton; The Canada West Trading Corp. of Calgary; and, Cantriex Livestock International Inc. of Ponoka.

AA-I and Selex were both honored in the manufactuer/producer employing between one and 25 people category. AA-I produces top quality silage bags, bagging machines, poly warehouse, silawrap and silawrap machines. Exports account for 85 per cent of its sales. The US is the company's largest market and it also has a growing domestic market. This year Mexican farmers began using Agripac silage bags. In 1990, AA-I also added stretch film wrappers and silage bag filling machines to its list of products.

Selex is a repeat export achievement award winner. Last year the animal genetics and technology company was recognized for export financing. Selex initially targeted the Asia Pacific rim export market, expanded to Europe and now is pursuing markets in Africa. Active in both domestic and international markets, Selex has developed a "flush" centre and quarantine station.

Another repeat winner is The Canada West Trading Corp. Last year honored for export marketing, Canada West was recognized in 1990 for trade brokerage. Through its "Taste of Canada", the company markets Canada and Canadian/Albertan products to the world and has a reputation as a leading marketer of agricultural food products to the international marketplace.

Also honored in the trade brokerage category was Cantriex Livestock International Inc. The company exports livestock and has focused its efforts in the US. Cantriex has used the futures market to stabilize its business and give a more even flow of livestock marketing while forward pricing animals for sale at a later date. This innovation has enhanced its viability and significantly changed domestic marketing of slaughter cattle.

(Cont'd)

Cantriex's success in the export market has been its strongest marketing tool and has attracted top notch Alberta suppliers. Export sales in the past year have surpassed projections.

Announcement of the 1990 export achievement winners launched the ninth annual export month. Winners were announced by Minister of Economic Development and Trade Peter Elzinga and Minister of Agriculture Ernie Isley.

In 1989 exports of good and services from Alberta totalled $14.6 billion. It was the third consecutive year Alberta's total exports increased.

"Alberta's agricultural companies continue to be successful in opening up new markets around the world," says Isley. "Because we ship 80 per cent of our wheat, 80 per cent of our cattle, 60 per cent of our hogs and 50 per cent of our barley to markets outside Alberta, their export success is particularly critical to our long term economic well-being."

Exports bring in $40 million a day, every day of the year from 150 counties around the world. Trade generates 20 cents of every dollar of our province's annual income and employs 270,000 Albertans.

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# Storing ornamental flower bulbs

Autumn's first frost is a signal to dig up summer flowering bulbs says an Alberta Agriculture horticulturist.

"Most summer flowering bulbs, such as begonias, dahlias and gladiolus, aren't hardy and must be lifted in the fall and stored indoors," says Pam North, information officer at the Alberta Tree Nursery and Horticulture Centre. "Each type of bulb requires different treatment," she adds.

Begonias can be dug up before or after the first frost. Tops should be left intact and as much soil as possible should be left on the tubers. Store in an airy, cool location (12 to 15 degrees Celsius) for about three weeks, or until stems break off easily from the tubers. Then, clean off the soil and small roots and dust tubers with a fungicide such as captan. For winter storage, tubers should be in vermiculite or peat moss at between seven and 15 degrees Celsius.

North says it's best to wait until after a frost before digging up gladioli. "This will give them as long a growing season as possible and maximize the corm size."

After digging, cut off the tops close to the corms and spread out in a box or flat to cure for two weeks. "When the old corms separate easily from the new ones, it's time to clean them off, remove any soil or loose outer skin," she says.

Store the gladioli corms in open trays or paper bags at between five and 10 degrees Celsius. Before storing, dust with a bulb dust containing captan and malathion.

"Dahlias are different again. You want to store them for the shortest possible time as they are often dry out in storage. Leave them in the ground for as long as possible and lift them out before the ground freezes," she advises.

(Cont'd)

Storing ornamental flower bulbs (cont'd)

Start by cutting back the plant to about 10 cm from the soil surface. Dig carefully to avoid breaking the roots and prevent damage to the neck where next year's buds start.

After lifting, turn upside down in a sunny location to drain water from the hollow stems. Draining takes about half a day.

Keep the bulbs at room temperature until the soil falls off the tubers. Dust with a fungicide and store in slightly moist peat moss or vermiculite. "They need to be in a quite a cool location, between two and seven degrees. Higher temperatures will encourage sprouting," says North.

She also advises checking the tubers throughout the winter. If they are dry, sprinkle lightly with water.

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Contact: Pam North
422-1789

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For immediate release

# Spring bulbs can be planted now

Some of the first signs of spring need to be planted now says an Alberta Agriculture horticulturist.

Tulips, daffodils, crocus, grape hyacinth and scilla bulbs should be bought and planted in the fall to ensure a colorful return of spring says Pam North, information officer at the the Alberta Agriculture Tree Nursery and Horticulture Centre in Edmonton.

"Bulbs can be planted as early as September, or as soon as they are available in stores. Plant them at least three weeks before the ground freezes so roots can grow," she says.

Successful spring bulbs start with choosing good bulbs. Large, firm bulbs with no signs of mold growth are best.

Most locations around the yard are suitable for bulbs, as long as the site has good drainage. However, avoid planting bulbs near building foundations, especially ones with a southern exposure. "This area warms up first in the spring and can encourage earlier growth that could be damaged by late spring frosts," says North.

When preparing soil, dig at least 30 cm deep. Add 2.5 to 5 cm of peat moss and mix into the top 15 cm of the soil. Fertilize with 10-30-10, bone meal or bulb fertilizers such as 4-10-8. It also should be incorporated into the top 15 cm of the soil.

How deep bulbs are planted depends on the type: tulips should be 20 cm; daffodils 25 cm; and, scilla, crocus and hyacinth 10 to 12 cm. These depths are from the soil surface to the base of the bulb.

After the ground has frozen, North advises applying a six to eight centimetre mulch of peat or clean straw. This helps keep the ground frozen and prevents early spring growth before the last frosts.

For more information about planting bulbs, contact North in Edmonton at 422-1789.

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Contact: Pam North
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Agri-News briefs

GOOD HANDLING TIPS FROM LIVESTOCK MARKETS ASSOCIATION

The Livestock Markets Association of Canada (LMAC) is adding new material to its successful "Good Handling Program" launched two years ago. The program includes posters, brochures and information binders to help auction markets and producers improve their operations. Now available to members are three information sheets that provide new insight into handling issues. One outlines why it's critical the livestock industry face the issue, a second outlines costs of carcass bruising from poor handling and the third offers tips from professionals on the safest ways to load and unload cattle. Along with the new information sheets, the LMAC released a "Handling Livestock Naturally" video and a "How to Handle Cattle More Easily" brochure. The brochure is available free of charge and the video may be borrowed. Contact the LMAC by writing Box 1175, Fort McLeod, Alberta, T0L 0Z0 or calling 553-3016. Poor cattle handling costs the Canadian cattle industry hundreds of thousands of dollars each year. Much of that loss can be avoided with proper handling. For more information, contact Ron Sim in Red Deer at 347-6100, Ron Northcott in Regina at (306)525-0589, Jim Wideman in Waterloo at (519)884-2082 or Jack McKennitt in Morden at (204)237-4417.

SEED TECHNOLOGY WORKSHOP NOVEMBER 13-15 IN OLDS

The 1990 seed technology workshop provides seminars of interest to seed growers, seed cleaning plant personnel, seed trade members and seed marketers. Among topics on the agenda at the Olds College workshop November 13 through 15 are: challenges to the pedigree grower; wind and screen machines; weed control; the GST and the seed industry; seed testing; and, oats production and processing. The workshop also includes a tour to the Three Hills Seed Plant. For more information, contact Jennifer O'Halloran in Olds at 556-4644 or Bill Witbeck in Lacombe at 782-4641.

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Agri-News briefs (cont'd)

INTERNATIONAL VISITORS AT LAKELAND COLLEGE

Lakeland College hosted two delegations of international visitors last month. Six staff members from Thailand's Rajamangala Institute of Technology visited the college as part of a Canadian tour. The Asian and Canadian educational institutions were twinned in 1989 and Lakeland has provided expertise to the Thai college since 1986. As well, a delegation from Bishop Tucker Theological College in Uganda visited the regional college. The two institutions are hoping to work together on agricultural projects at the Ugandan college. For more information, contact Taras Saruk, international development officer, in Vermilion at 853-8579.

WOMEN IN SUPPORT OF AGRICULTURE CONFERENCE IN RED DEER

Alberta Women in Support of Agriculture will hold their 1990 conference at Red Deer's Capri Centre November 15 and 16. Among topics at the "changes, challenges and opportunities" conference are: marketing strategies and techniques; chemical weed control; entrepreneurship and horticulture; biotechnology; and, results from an Alberta Wheat Pool survey on farm women's role in the business of farming. Keynote speaker Don Shaw provides a motivational look at a healthy family. Banquet speaker is Linda Keen, Western Canada regional advisor for Agriculture Canada. There is also a one-day trade show. Registration for a couple is $40, $25 for one person and $15 for one-day registrations. The cost includes conference materials, banquet, continental breakfast, lunch and coffee breaks. For more information, contact local Alberta Agriculture district home economists, call the AWSA office in Nanton at 646-2059 or Elaine Deeg in Langdon at 936-5991.

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# Growing season generally good

The 1990 growing season was a generally good one says Alberta Agriculture's weather resource specialist.

"This year's growing season was good to most Alberta farmers, despite some flooding, dust storms and drier than normal conditions in some regions of the province," says Peter Dzikowski of the conservation and development branch in Edmonton.

Wet weather opened the growing season during May and June in most parts of the province. Wet conditions were accompanied by flooding in parts of the Peace River and Red Deer regions. A direct contrast was the drier than normal conditions experienced in southern and east central regions. A few dust storms were reported there during this two month period.

Heavy rains continued into early July in central regions, while rainfall totals were about half of normal in the Peace region.

"Warm, dry, frost-free conditions during August and September provided good weather for maturing crops and harvesting operations. But in east central Alberta, the dry conditions reduced range and pasture productivity and crop yields," he says.

Precipitation totals averaged for the province were close to normal through the crop season. The provincial average for May 1 to September 30 was 262.4 mm, 22 mm below the normal provincial average of 284.4 mm. This total is an average based on 49 Alberta weather stations.

Seasonal precipitation totals varied from a low of 108.3 mm at Empress, 60 per cent of its normal, to a high of 480.2 mm at Olds, 143 per cent of its long term normal. Bow Island's 141 mm was the second driest total in the province. That was 68 per cent of its long term average. The town of Peace River was also dry, reporting 159 mm of rain, only 67 per cent of normal.

(Cont'd)

Growing season generally good (cont'd)

The provincial average temperature for the same five month period was 14.3 degrees Celsius, which is 0.9 degrees warmer than the normal average.

"September's exceptionally warm temperatures, about three degrees above normal on average, helped contribute to this difference, and provided excellent harvesting conditions," says Dzikowski.

The date of the first fall frost on average was September 22, about 10 days later than normal.

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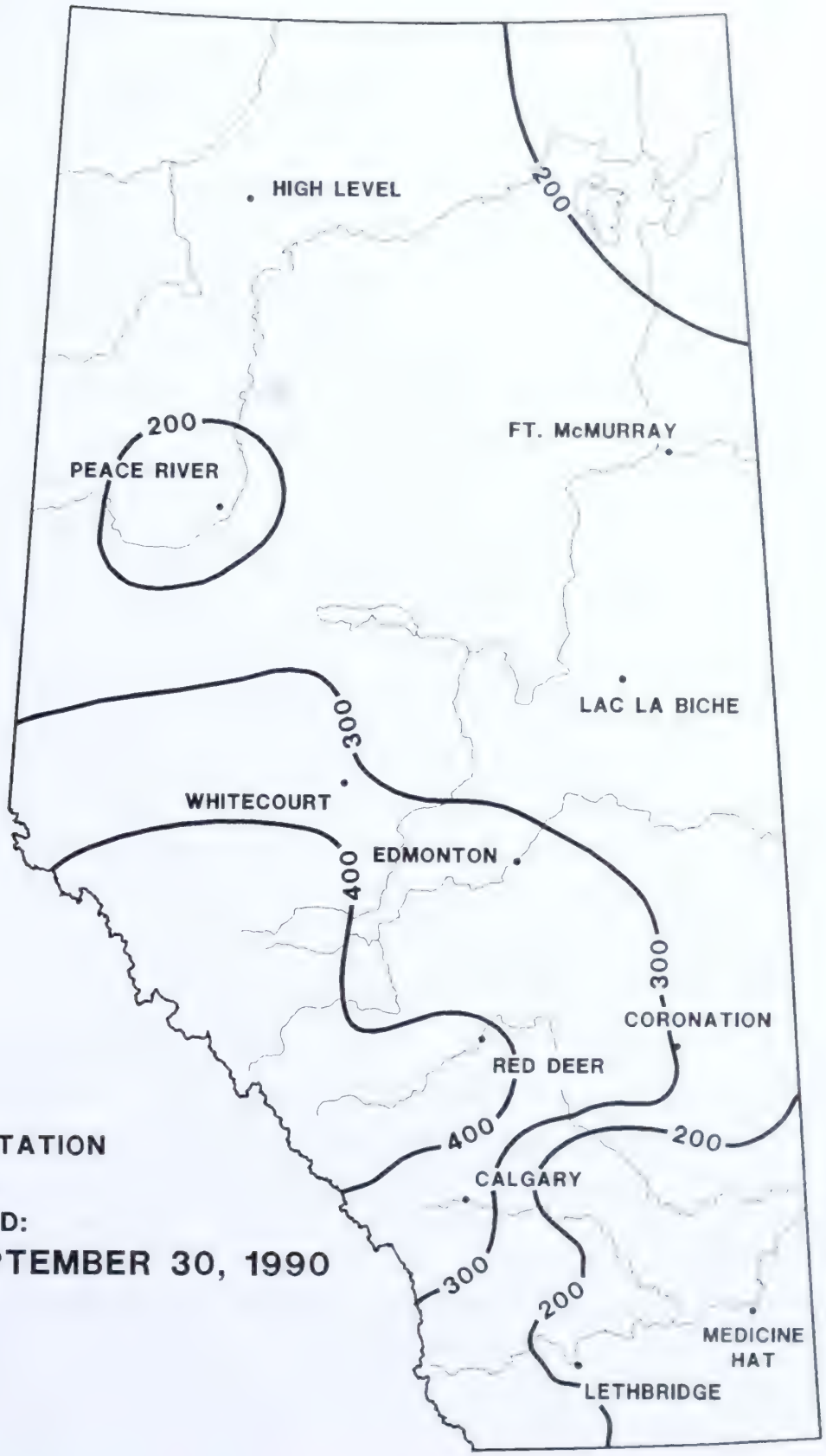
Contact: Peter Dzikowski
422-4385

**Editor's Note:** Attached is a map of total precipitation for the five month growing season.




**TOTAL PRECIPITATION**
**in millimetres**
**FOR THE PERIOD:**
**MAY 1 - SEPTEMBER 30, 1990**

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CASCI's first year builds foundation

When south Peace area farmers toured five soil conservation demonstration sites this summer they were seeing the Canada-Alberta Soil Conservation Initiative (CASCI) program in action.

The tour and plots, sponsored by the Municipal District of Smoky River's agricultural service board and the Smoky Applied Research and Demonstration Association (SARDA), are examples of co-operative projects between the two groups. Both are also representative of the hundreds of projects supported wholly or in part by CASCI.

"CASCI has made an impressive beginning in the short time since its covering agreement was signed in July 1989," says Randy Bjorklund, CASCI's provincial co-ordinator. "It's provided a firm foundation to build upon in the next two years, and into the future."

The three-year, $34.8 million program was designed to encourage farming practices that conserve Alberta's soil resource and sustain long-term productivity. Information and technology transfer, specialized conservation equipment, permanent cover, and monitoring and research are all components of the comprehensive program.

"Transferring information and technology to Alberta's farmers is the aim of many CASCI elements," he says. The assistance has a twist that gives flexibility and puts an onus on local groups. CASCI provides financial and technical support, but leaves the planning and implementation at the local level.

"This makes each area's program a best-fit for their conditions and how to best provide awareness, demonstrations and problem-solving activities," says Alan Stewart, senior soil conservationist with the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration (PFRA).

It's also been popular, adds Bjorklund. "The excellent response in 1989-90 shows farmers, producer groups and agricultural service boards are interested and committed to soil conservation."

(Cont'd)

But perhaps the best feature of the CASCI program is how it encourages soil conservation planning, says Stewart. All 67 of the province's agricultural service boards (ASB) and 18 producer organizations have developed medium range soil conservation action plans with CASCI support. "Many ASBs and producer groups are doing more extensive long range planning," he adds.

During the past summer, 25 different types of demonstrations were carried out through the demonstration, local planning and awareness part of the CASCI program. These projects involved wind erosion, water erosion, dry land salinity, organic matter decline and on-farm water management. Many also used special conservation equipment obtained through CASCI's conservation equipment support program.

CASCI funds were also used by agricultural service boards and producer organizations to involve school children, community organizations and non-farm groups in awareness projects. Specific projects included resource materials for a college-level course, a student booklet and teacher's guide aimed at grades four through six, displays, publications and a conference.

"This broad approach is crucial in developing a conservation ethic in our society," Bjorklund says.

Farmers also responded positively to CASCI's permanent cover program. The program recognizes soil degradation problems on marginal lands used for annual crop production. Over 3,000 applications were received and to date over 1,000 have been approved, says Stewart. The program includes an option for long-term conversion to permanent cover, he adds, another way CASCI is helping make long term changes.

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# Alternatives to hay for wintering cows

If a dry year has left you with less hay than normal, an Alberta Agriculture livestock specialist has advice about alternative feeds for the coming winter.

Many producers rely on alfalfa-grass hay to winter their cows, says Patrick Ramsey, northeast regional livestock specialist. In some areas dry weather limited that hay production, but producers don't have to panic if they don't have sufficient quantities for winter, he says.

"The beef cow is a very versatile and adaptable animal. So, producers can use a number of alternative rations to keep cows in good condition until calving and help them milk and rebreed well after calving," he says.

Ramsey advises looking into a number of management practices to make available feed supplies last longer and reduce the costs of wintering cows.

Knowing what kind of condition your cows are in is an important first step, he says and advises condition scoring the herd. Condition score on a scale of one to five, where one is emaciated and five is excessively fat. Cows going into the winter in thin condition or with a condition score of less than two will need about 20 per cent more hay to allow them to gain weight and be in proper condition. Ideally cows should calve at a condition score of between 2.5 and 3.0.

The second step is getting cows into good condition for the winter, starting with fall grazing. "If you're running out of pasture, which is common at this time of year, consider weaning your calves early, creep feeding calves or supplying supplemental feed to your cows," Ramsey says. If grazing on stubble fields, regrowth on hay fields, sloughs or bush areas, ensure cows maintain a condition score of 2.5.

"Recently, grazing greenfeed swaths has been catching on as a means to extend the grazing season. One rancher has indicated he can graze a cow per acre for three and half months. He turns his cows into greenfeed swaths in November after weaning calves and the cows stay there until mid-January," he says.

(Cont'd)

Alternatives to hay for wintering cows (cont'd)

Other late fall pastures include underseeding grain crops with fall rye or using creeping red fescue pastures, he adds.

To make the most efficient use of existing feed supplies, Ramsey recommends producers talk to their local district agriculturist about feed testing and ration balancing. "Cattle only perform to the level of the most limiting nutrient. Some producers overfeed for nutrients such as protein and underfeed for energy, calcium, phosphorous and trace minerals or vitamins. Over and underfeeding costs you money!"

District agriculturists can assist producers in determining the type and amount of feed required as a supplement to individual feed supplies with a new computer ration balancing system. The program can also be used to determine which combination of feeds will be the most economical, Ramsey adds.

Straw or greenfeed can also be baled, and when properly supplemented can provide a large portion of a winter feed supply. Other strategies for coping with a feed shortage include: culling open or nonproductive cows in the fall; selling steers now or consigning them to a custom feed lot; selecting replacement heifers now and selling or consigning the reminder to custom feedlot; and, moving the herd to a custom feedlot for part of the winter.

An important management tool is sorting animals into feeding groups according to condition and age. A minimum of three groups is advised. These include: replacement heifers; first and second calvers and old thin cows; and, mature cows in good condition. Additional fencing and waterers may be required.

As well, reduce feed waste by building an adequate number of well-designed feeders and by grinding low quality forages to increase their consumption. "Even with good feeders, cattle may waste up to 10 per cent of their food. However, if you feed on the ground or with old style round bale feeders, wastage can be around 25 to 30 per cent," Ramsey says.

(Cont'd)

Alternatives to hay for wintering cows (cont'd)

Another consideration is the weather. Cattle require an extra four pounds of barley or six pounds of hay per cow per day for every 10 degrees Celsius the temperature is below -10 in early winter or -20 in mid winter. Wind chill, rain or wet snow can increase this requirement dramatically.

"However, take note, it's estimated that adequate bedding and shelter can reduce winter feed requirements by up to 20 per cent," says Ramsey.

For more information on how to cope if you're short of hay, contact your local Alberta Agriculture district agriculturist or regional livestock specialist to assist in analyzing and preparing a winter feeding program for cows or calves.

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Contact: Patrick Ramsey
853-8110

October 15, 1990
For immediate release

# Livestock deferral plan extended

Producers in designated areas of eastern Alberta will be eligible again this year to defer their income from sales of their breeding stock reminds Alberta Agriculture's provincial tax specialist.

Federal agriculture minister Don Mazankowski announced an extension of the program in late September for producers living in designated areas of eastern Alberta and western Saskatchewan.

"Producers who experienced a drought year in 1990 can defer their breeding herd sale proceeds until 1991 if their farm is in a designated area," says Merle Good, of the farm business management branch in Olds. Designated areas include: the Counties of Beaver, Lamont, Minburn, Newell, Smoky Lake, St. Paul, Two Hills and Vermilion River; Improvement District 18; Municipal Districts of Acadia, Bonnyville, Cypress, Provost and Wainwright; and, Special Areas 2, 3 and 4.

"With this announcement, some producers will be able to defer their sale proceeds from 1988 and 1989 to 1991 because of recurring drought years. For example, Special Areas 2, 3 and 4 have qualified as a designated drought area every year since 1988," he says.

Eligible producers should apply for the deferral when filing their 1990 income tax return, he adds.

The Drought Induced Sales of Breeding Animals program was originally announced in 1988. It gave producers who sold at least 15 per cent of their breeding herd in a drought year, or a series of drought years, a partial income deferral until the next year. Thirty per cent of sale proceeds can be deferred if a breeding herd is reduced by at least 15 per cent, but less than 30 per cent. If 30 per cent or more of a breeding herd is sold, then a 90 per cent deferral is available.

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Contact: Merle Good
556-4237

October 15, 1990
For immediate release

# International panel at oats symposium

Oat growers from Sweden and North Dakota will add an international flavor to the second annual Oat Producers Association of Alberta symposium November 21 and 22 in Edmonton.

The "betting on oats" symposium will feature an international producer panel with participants discussing production and marketing oats in Canada, the United States and Sweden.

"Having an international panel will give our producers a greater insight and appreciation of what is happening with the production and marketing of oats," says Peter Kirylchuk, president of the Oat Producers Association of Alberta.

Symposium sessions will key on the areas identified in the association's mandate from production to marketing. Among topics on the agenda are: an oat market outlook panel; a fertility program and management practices to increase the quality of oats; production requirements, markets and marketing of organic oats; and, a review of the proposed grading system.

"Our symposium line-up has the people in the know about oats from across Western Canada and beyond. For example, Brian Rossnagel, University of Saskatchewan researcher, and Si Mattheis, of General Mills in Minneapolis, will be at the syposium again this year. These and all other sessions will certainly be most worthwhile to anyone in the oat business," he says. "We're also delighted to have Tim Ball, climatologist from the University of Winnipeg, as our banquet speaker."

One highlight of the two-day symposium will be the announcement of winners in an oats recipe contest. The taste of Alberta oats competition invited entries in cookies, squares, muffins and nutritious snack categories. Winners will be announced before the Wednesday night banquet.

(Cont'd)

A trade fair is also part of the symposium giving growers a chance to meet with industry representatives individually.

For more information, contact Kirylchuk in Lac La Biche at 623-7732, Harvey Yoder in Lac La Biche at 623-5218 or Emile deMilliano at 895-2219.

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Contact: Peter Kirylchuk
623-7732

Harvey Yoder
623-5218

Emile deMilliano
895-2219

October 15, 1990
For immediate release

# Alberta Agriculture Appointments

## NEW PROVINCIAL APICULTURIST

Kenn Tuckey is Alberta Agriculture's new provincial apiculturist. "I look forward to working with the beekeepers of the province in yet another capacity," he says of his new duties. Tuckey is responsible for extension programs to the bee and honey industry including disease and parasite control and general management advice. Tuckey was a commercial beekeeper with 1400 hives in the Barrhead area between 1974 and 1988. Most recently, he was chairman of the board of the Alberta Honey Producers Co-operative Ltd. He was also president of the Alberta Beekeepers Association from 1977 through 1979. Originally from a mixed farm in Exeter, Ontario, Tuckey earned a BSc in agriculture (1961) from the Ontario Agricultural College in Guelph. He also holds a bachelor of education (1972) degree from the University of Alberta. Tuckey can be contacted in Edmonton at 427-7098.

## NEW REGIONAL SOIL CONSERVATION CO-ORDINATOR IN RED DEER

Ben Froebel has joined Alberta Agriculture's conservation and development branch as the soil conservation co-ordinator for the north central region. "This is a very exciting time to be involved in soil conservation," he says. "Soil conservation issues have never received more attention than they are receiving now. The joint provincial-federal initiatives are a serious commitment to conserving our most important renewable resource." His duties include co-ordination and implementation of soil conservation projects and activities in his region. Froebel spent two years working in Africa as a land use officer for the Botswana Ministry of Agriculture. He did natural resource surveys and land-use planning there between 1987 and 1989. He also spent 11 years in British Columbia as a district land manager allocating Crown lands and resolving land use conflicts between 1973 and 1984. Froebel holds a BSc in agriculture (1970) from the University of Alberta. He can be contacted in Red Deer at 340-5329.

October 15, 1990
For immediate release

# Agri-News briefs

## PEACE COUNTRY FARM WOMEN'S CONFERENCE NOV.15-16

This year's Peace region farm women's conference in Grand Prairie will open with a keynote address on its theme, farming: our life, our career. The speaker is Elizabeth Durie, Vegreville district home economist and an active partner in her family's farming operation. The two-day conference November 15 and 16 features a variety of select-a-session for participants. Topics include: your relationship with your banker; farming's environmental safety; planning ahead for financial crisis; partnerships in business and marriage; managing stress; planning your next garden; kids, drugs and alcohol; the farmer and the GST; profiting from people power; sewing trends; country caution; and, diversification of the family farm. Special entertainment is a Grande Prairie Little Theatre production. For more information and or a registration brochure, contact any Alberta Agriculture Peace region district home economist.

## ENVIRONMENTAL CATTLE MEDIA KIT RELEASED

Cattle have been getting a bad rap and the Alberta Cattle Commission (ACC) has released a media kit to provide the facts about the beef cattle industry and its relationship to the environment. The kit is in a myth-fact format, dealing with common questions and concerns. Gordon Mitchell, ACC manager of operations and extension, is personally distributing the kit to urban media. It's also being sent to rural media, industry leaders, government representatives and special interest groups. For more information, contact Mitchell in Calgary at 275-4400.

## HOOF CARE AND TRIMMING COURSE AT OLDS COLLEGE

Two sessions of a hoof care and trimming course will be offered at Olds College over the winter. One course is November 16 through 18 and the second, March 1 through 3. November 9 is the registration deadline for the first course. For more information, call the College at 556-8344.

# AGRI-NEWS

CANADIANA

NOV 13 1990

October 22, 1990

For immediate release

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Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Print Media Branch

Phone: (403) 427-2121

October 22, 1990
For immediate release

# Straw can be a feed option

One option for farmers short of forage this winter is feeding cattle straw says an Alberta Agriculture ruminant nutritionist.

"Cows in mid and late pregnancy, replacement heifers and mature bulls can be fed straw," says Barry Yaremcio, "But because of its lower protein and energy content than greenfeed or hay, you do have to supplement it with larger amounts of grain and protein."

For example, a 1200 lb. cow in mid pregnancy offered free choice of straw would require four to five pounds of grain and one pound of 32 per cent protein supplement. The same animal wouldn't need grain if it was offered a good quality hay, he says.

Even with free choice, there's a limit to how much straw cattle will eat he says. "An animal will usually consume straw at one to 1.5 per cent of their body weight. This limit is because of the time it takes for digesting the straw and passage out of the rumen."

When used as a major component of feed rations, straw should be tested for protein, energy, calcium, phosphorus and nitrates. Errors in estimating straw quality could create major problems, he cautions. "Weak calves, poor body condition and low milk quality are some potential hazards of guessing straw quality."

All trace minerals are generally short in most Alberta feeds, Yaremcio says. "Straw isn't any different. A fortified trace mineral salt needs to be a part of the feeding program. In some situations, a two to one mineral may also be required."

Magnesium and Vitamin A are particularly deficient in straw grain rations. A supplement with high levels of magnesium, 10 per cent or more, should be considered in a feeding program, he says. Magnesium deficiencies can contribute to grass tetany and downer cows problems after calving. Adequate Vitamin A can be supplemented in injectable or powdered form fed in grain.

(Cont'd)

Straw can be a feed option (cont'd)

Straw rations also have to be modified during cold weather, minus 20 degrees Celsius or colder. "Animals voluntarily increase their feed intake as the temperature drops, but additional feed should be high in energy, such as barley.

Yaremcio warns if additional straw is eaten without the additional protein, the rumen's ability to digest is reduced and impaction can occur. An 8.5 per cent protein level is required to maintain proper rumen function, he notes.

To determine what's required in a specific feeding program, producers should consult with their local Alberta Agriculture district agriculturist, a regional livestock specialist, nutritionist or local veterinarian.

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Contact: Barry Yaremcio
427-6361

October 22, 1990
For immediate release

# Hort congress grows for tomorrow

Production, marketing and business concerns of commercial vegetable, flower and fruit growers will be highlighted by a line-up of more than 35 experts at the Alberta Horticultural Congress and Trade Show.

The horticultural event with technical sessions, tours and a trade show is slated for the Calgary Convention Centre November 1 through 5.

"Technical sessions will go through a very wide range of topics, from how the Goods and Services Tax will affect direct market growers and greenhouse operators to field grown dried flower production, controlled atmosphere storage implications in the vegetable industry and Prairie apple production. No matter the branch of horticulture involved, there are sessions of interest and application to Alberta growers," says Simone Demers Collins, congress co-ordinator.

"Our speaker line-up will concentrate on current concerns such as making the most of your business. Two of our speakers are noted business consultants. Susan Sutherland, of the Fresh For Flavor Foundation, is back to discuss produce safety and how to answer consumer questions on this subject," she adds.

Four tours will take in: large and small wholesalers; a hydroponic lettuce operation; wholesale poinsettias, tropicals and Christmas cacti, and a Gleason production line; and, a variety of flower shops including dried, fresh-cut and tropical.

The Alberta Greenhouse Growers Association, the Alberta Market Gardeners Association, the Fruit Growers Society of Alberta, the Alberta Fresh Vegetable Marketing Board and Flowers Canada (Alberta region) will also be holding meetings throughout the congress.

For more information, contact Demers Collins in Edmonton at 427-7366 or FAX 422-3655.

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Contact: Simone Demers Collins
427-7366

October 22, 1990
For immediate release

# Sheep seminars at three locations in November

Alberta sheep producers have the opportunity to attend one of three seminars scheduled across the province in mid-November.

The seminar series starts November 13 in Cardston (Provincial Building), moves to Millarville (Fair Grounds) the next day and concludes November 15 in Nisku (Nisku Inn).

Multi species grazing, nutrition and sustainable agriculture will be addressed by seminar speakers. John Walker, range scientist with the United States Sheep Experiment Station at Dubois, Idaho, will address multi species grazing and specific grazing uses of sheep. Walker has used sheep and goats to control leafy spurge. Also appearing at the three seminars is Dale Engstrom, Alberta Agriculture nutrition scientist. Engstrom will talk about the use of current technology.

Speaking at the final two seminars is Gerald Thomas, president emeritus of New Mexico State University. His topic is the role of livestock in sustainable agricultural systems.

"These seminars should be informative for all sheep, and cattle, producers in the province," says Wray Whitmore, Alberta Agriculture sheep specialist.

Whitmore notes the meetings in Cardston and Nisku will begin at 7 p.m. and have a $5 admission charge. The Millarville meeting starts at 3 p.m. and includes a lamb banquet at 5:30 p.m. at a total cost of $20. Anyone wishing to hear the final two speakers, but not attend the supper will be charged $5.

The seminars are co-sponsored by the Alberta Sheep Breeders Association.

For more information, contact the Alberta Agriculture district offices in Cardston and High River or Whitmore in Edmonton at 427-5083.

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Contact: Wray Whitmore
427-5083

October 22, 1990
For immediate release

Foraging ahead in the 90s conference theme

A higher profile for the forage industry is the focus of a joint national conference of the Alberta Forage Council and the Canadian Forage Council November 29 through December 1 in Edmonton.

Conference sessions at the third annual national conference will run the range of practical, philosophical and technical. Roles of industry and government and new directions in forage production and management will be discussed.

"We're pleased to have John Rodgers of the American Forage and Grassland Council as our opening keynote speaker. He recently retired as executive vice-president of that organization. But more importantly, he was instrumental in organizing forage councils in many American states. His commitment to the value of forages extends to his own experience. The same Pennsylvania dairy farm has been in his family for eight generations," says Jerry Sykes, manager of the Alberta Forage Council.

Other guest speakers include Red Williams, of the University of Saskatchewan, on interfacing forages with agriculture and Alberta Agriculture Minister Ernie Isley, who will be the conference luncheon speaker on November 30.

Also on the conference line-up are: panel discussions on creating strong producer organizations and market opportunities; Agriculture Canada's role in the future of Canadian forages; making your commodity group's issue heard by industry and government; practical aspects of hay certification in Saskatchewan; changes in the Canadian seed industry; cash cropping pastures effectively; and, modified management systems for pastures. Scientific aspects should be of interest to researchers as well as forage producers, he notes.

"We're hoping for some lively discussion during the panel presentations. For example, the market opportunities panel is from the user perspective and includes a hay broker, a forage processor, a dairy operator and a representative of the horse industry," says Sykes.

(Cont'd)

An 18 booth trade show will also run through the first two days of the conference. The third day is the annual business meeting of the Canadian Forage Council. The conference will be at the Fantasyland Hotel at West Edmonton Mall.

Alberta Agriculture district offices and regional forage specialists have copies of the conference brochure. For more information, contact Sykes in Lac La Biche at 623-5218 or FAX 623-5358.

Forage is one of Alberta's most important but one of its least recognized crops, says Sykes. In 1987, forages estimated cash value in Alberta was over $450 million. Traditionally associated with livestock feed, processed forages are also becoming important as a valued-added export. Forages also play a critical role in crop rotations and soil conservation, he adds.

The Alberta Forage Council was formed in 1984 to promote and co-ordinate the provincial forage sector. The Canadian Forage Council, an umbrella organization of the 10 regional councils, was formed in 1988.

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Contact: Jerry Sykes
623-5218

October 22, 1990
For immediate release

# Ministers warn against Crow Benefit status quo

Agriculture Minister Ernie Isley and Associate Agriculture Minister Shirley McClellan recently highlighted the opportunities available to Western Canadian farmers through a change in the method of payment of the Crow Benefit, and detailed their concerns regarding the status quo.

The ministers were commenting on "Freedom to Choose", a recently released Alberta Agriculture proposal for a federal government buy-out of the Crow Benefit.

"Today, grain sold for $100 on the export market is actually worth only $56 at the local elevator," says Isley. "Rail costs, including the share covered by the Crow Benefit, take $22 from the sale, and handling and other system costs take a further $22. Farmers have no control over these costs, and no control over the price they receive for their grains. This leaves them caught in a real squeeze. Under Freedom to Choose, farmers would have direct control over their transportation options, and would be able to promote greater efficiency and lower costs in the grain handling and transportation system."

McClellan notes that if farmers opt to keep the Crow Benefit as it is now paid, they will pay higher grain transportation and handling rates in the future. "With costs continuing to rise, and with the Crow Benefit set at a fixed amount, the farmer's share of handling and transportation expenses will become greater and greater over time."

"We have developed the Freedom to Choose proposal because it is clear that retaining the status quo will hurt Western Canadian agriculture," says Isley. "As it is now paid, the Crow Benefit distorts domestic prices for grains, discourages value adding in our agriculture industry, and effectively takes control over production, marketing and transportation decisions away from our farmers."

(Cont'd)

Ministers warn against Crow Benefit status quo (cont'd)

Under the Freedom to Choose proposal, the Crow Benefit would be eliminated. In its place, farmers would receive $7.2 billion in government bonds, to be redeemed after 15 years. In addition to the face value of the bonds, farmers would receive interest on the bonds, providing an annual cash stream for the 15-year period. Farmers would pay the full cost of grain transportation, but would be free to use the cash stream to offset transport costs, or for any other purpose in their best interest.

The Freedom to Choose proposal offers a number of advantages for Western Canadian agriculture, including a wider range of production choices for farmers. "With the Crow Benefit funds in their hands," says Isley, "farmers would have the opportunity to diversify their production. They would no longer be penalized for producing commodities not currently covered by the Crow Benefit, such as livestock and forages.

"The Crow Benefit as it is now paid may have served grain farmers well in the stable world marketplace of the past, but that stability has disappeared. Escalating international use of export subsidies and the loss of some of Canada's traditional grain buyers have restricted our export opportunities for raw grains. It is now more important than ever that we widen the sales opportunities available to our grain farmers, by offering a stronger domestic market. The resulting expansion of our livestock and value added sectors would allow grain farmers to become less reliant on selling raw grains into the volatile export market. This would provide greater stability in farm income.

"Today, farmers are paying for the ride, but someone else is at the steering wheel. It's time farmers were allowed to make their own decisions on what to grow, where to sell it and how best to get it to market. With farmers making these choices on the basis of market realities, rather than in response to an export-encouraging subsidy, I am absolutely certain that all sectors of Western Canadian agriculture would benefit."

(Cont'd)

Anyone with questions about the Crow Benefit and about the Alberta Agriculture proposal for change is encouraged to dial the "Freedom to Choose Hotline", a direct, toll-free telephone line to staff who will provide information. The number is 1-800-661-0056, and the line is open from 8:15 am to 4:30 pm Alberta time.

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Contact: Ken Beswick
427-2417

Gordon Herrington
427-2417

October 22, 1990
For immediate release

# Force bulbs for indoor flowers

Favorite bulbs that normally bloom outdoors can bring their color indoors with special treatment says an Alberta Agriculture horticulturist.

"You force the bulbs by recreating the conditions they would normally have outdoors," says Pam North, information officer at the Alberta Tree Nursery and Horticultural Centre in Edmonton. "Then you'll bring some color and a sense of spring into your home in the middle of winter."

All hardy types of bulbs grown outdoors can be forced indoors. This includes tulips, daffodils and hyacinth, she says.

Start with healthy bulbs with no signs of mold growth or rot. Bulb pans are commonly used as containers. These low, wide containers are half as deep as they are wide. "Practically any type of container can be used, provided they have drainage holes, but because bulbs are shallow rooted, they don't need deep containers. Also you'll have a more attractive arrangement in a bulb pan because you can fit more bulbs into it than a standard pot," she says.

House-plant potting soil is suitable, but it should be well-draining. If it appears to have a lot of peat moss, add perlite or vermiculite to improve drainage, North advises. Or, mix your own with one part pasteurized loam, one part peat moss and one part perlite or vermiculite.

Bulbs must be planted right side up--pointed end up. Plant close together, as the more in the pot, the more showy the eventual display. But, bulbs shouldn't be touching each other or the side of the container. All the same type of bulb should be grown in a single pot.

When planting hyacinth and daffodils leave the tips of the bulbs out of the soil. Cover other bulb types completely. Leave about a centimetre at top of the pot for watering. After planting, firm soil around the bulbs, and then water well.

(Cont'd)

Force bulbs for indoor flowers (cont'd)

To bring on the flowers, planted bulbs need a cool, dark location such as a refrigerator or root cellar. Temperatures between five and 10 degrees Celsius are best. If lights are on in the area, cover the pots with newspaper. Also, keep soil moist.

How long pots are kept in the cold depends on the type of bulb and even their variety, she says. The average is between four and 12 weeks. "Bulbs should have a good root system before they're taken out of storage. Roots should be growing out of the drainage holes. Shoots should be approximately five cm tall before moving out of storage," says North.

Remove from cold storage and place the pot into a spot with indirect light in a cool location (10 to 15 degrees Celsius) for a few days. This will allow the shoots to green up. "If they're taken from the cold to a warm, sunny location the flowers develop too quickly and may be poor quality," she cautions.

When flower buds are out and are showing color, move the plants into full light with temperatures between 18 to 20 degrees Celsius. Once flowers are out, keep them out of intense light so the flowers last longer.

For more information on forcing bulbs, contact North in Edmonton at 422-1789.

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Contact: Pam North
422-1789

October 22, 1990
For immediate release

# Eight 4-H leaders travel to Montana

Eight long-time Alberta 4-H leaders returned from a forum in Montana armed with choices.

The leaders forum they attended in Polson, Montana centered on the "celebration of choices" offered by 4-H programs and the choices they can make as leaders to make 4-H a better experience for members and themselves. The conference ran October 12 through 14.

Representing Alberta were: Ann Werenka, a eight-year leader with Sangudo Beef; Archie Bell, a 27-year leader with Chauvin Beef; Marlene Waldner, a three-year leader with Medicine Hat Light Horse; Frances Stewart, a six-year leader with Strong Creek Beef (Grimshaw); Alvin Kumlin, a seven-year leader with Jumping Pound Beef (Calgary); Jim Huse, a six-year leader with Ponoka Renegade Riders; Calvin Conrad, a three-year leader with Clairmount 4-H Multi (Grande Prairie); and, Eva Waterfield, a four-year leader with Kitscoty Beef (Islay).

"Our leaders took part in an enriching conference. They learned about developing both their own leadership skills as well as coaching their members and new activities for their clubs," says Marguerite Stark, provincial 4-H camping and exchange specialist. "They also had a chance to share their own, and the Alberta 4-H experience, in another part of the world and learn more about what 4-H means in Montana."

The eight Albertans were selected to attend through the Alberta Agriculture 4-H Leader Development Program. Their trips were sponsored by TransAlta Utilities and Alberta Power. They were hosted in Montana by the Montana State University Extension Service.

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Contact: Marguerite Stark
948-8509

October 22, 1990
For immediate release

Agri-News briefs

REVIEW DATES SET FOR WETLANDS POLICY

Fourteen public open houses and workshop sessions have been scheduled around the province during October and November to discuss the draft wetland management policy for Alberta's settled areas. Suggestions received from the meetings and written comments will help the provincial government develop a wetlands policy reflecting the desires of Albertans. Members of the Water Resources Commission and government representatives will attend the public meetings to answer questions and host workshop groups. All meetings start at 6:30 p.m. with workshops at 7:30 p.m. The dates and locations are: October 25, Lethbridge, El Rancho Motor Hotel; October 29, Brooks, Heritage Inn; October 30, Calgary, Marlborough Inn; November 6, Innisfail, Country Lodge; November 7, Castor, Community Hall; November 8, Wainwright, Communiplex; November 15, Edmonton, Capilano Inn; November 20, Two Hills, Centennial Hall; November 21, Bonnyville, Senior Citizen's Drop-in Centre; November 22, Barrhead, Legion Hall; November 26, Grande Prairie, Trumpeter Motor Inn; November 27, McLennan, McLennan Motor Inn; November 28, Fairview, Dunvegan Motor Inn; November 29, Fort Vermilion, Community Complex. For a copy of the draft policy or more information, contact Alf Birch or Lynne Kemper at the Alberta Water Resources Commission in Edmonton at 422-4232.

ACC DELEGATE ELECTIONS AND INFO MEETINGS BEGIN

The Alberta Cattle Commission (ACC) will be holding delegate elections and producernformation meetings across the province during the weeks of October 29 and November 5. At the meetings, producers can vote for delegate candidates, hear Commission reports from the past year's programs and share their thoughts and concerns about the cattle industry and the Commission. Contact a zone delegate for more information: zone one, Tom Livingston, Duchess, 378-4701, or David

(Cont'd)

Agri-News briefs (cont'd)

ACC DELEGATE ELECTIONS AND INFO MEETINGS BEGIN (cont'd)
Andrews, Brooks, 362-2219; zone two, Joe Bulman, Claresholm, 625-2217; zone three John Campbell, Black Diamond, 938-7775, or John Stewart-Smith, Calgary, 288-6941; zone four, Pat Rutledge, Monitor, 577-2382; zone five, Mabel Hamilton, Innisfail, 224-2353; zone six, Randy Archibald, Rosalind, 375-2378, or George Schoepp (chairman), Stony Plain, 963-3376; zone seven, Dale Greig (vice-chairman), Barrhead, 674-4246, or Gladys Wacowich, Redwater, 942-4168; zone eight, Norman Kuntz, Minburn, 593-2129, or Allan Belshiem, Marwayne, 847-2159; and, zone nine, Gary Creelman, Fairview, 835-4645.

BARLEY BRAN CHOLESTEROL REDUCER, TOO

A senior University of Saskatchewan researcher says barley bran contains a higher concentration of cholesterol-reducing beta-glucans than oat bran. Barley bran can be prepared easily by milling and the remaining flour can be added to wheat flour and used to a produce a variety of non-bread items. These conclusions are part of ongoing research conducted by Ron Bhatty at his university's Crop Development Centre. The research was funded by the Saskatchewan Agricultural Development Fund. Bhatty says some barley has about an 11 per cent beta-glucan content, while oats have about a four per cent beta-glucan content. When barley is milled into bran the beta-glucan concentration is enriched by a factor of two, he says. Barley's benefits extend even further. With a much lower oil content than oats, barley can be dry milled and results in a purer bran. Barley has traditionally been used for malt and livestock feed. Interest in milling barley however, is "awakening", says Bhatty. For more information, contact Bhatty in Saskatoon at (306)966-4970.

PROVINCIAL 4-H HOMEMAKING LEADERS UPDATE

4-H homemaking leaders from across the province started their new year with an update at the second annual provincial 4-H homemaking leaders update. October 12 through 14 was full of activity at the 4-H

(Cont'd)

Agri-News briefs (cont'd)

PROVINCIAL 4-H HOMEMAKING LEADERS UPDATE (cont'd)

Centre at Battle Lake as 40 leaders took part in technical update sessions in foods, clothing and crafts. Foods leaders considered some of the current trends in food preparation and consumption and discussed ways incorporate these trends into 4-H projects. Crafts leaders learned many new craft ideas for their members through a series of "hands on" experiences. Other sessions focused on projects members could do to help make their homes more environmentally friendly and their families more environmentally aware, including making fabric shopping bags and recycling old blue jeans into great new clothes. The keynote speaker for the weekend was Hugh Phillips, president of HP Consultant Services. In his workshop, Phillips encouraged and challenged the leaders to plan interesting and meaningful meetings for 4-H members and offered many useful ideas for keeping members involved and enthusiastic about the program. For more information, contact Penny Wilkes at the 4-H branch in Edmonton at 427-2541.

BEEF EVALUATION SLIDE KIT

A 66-slide presentation describing how to estimate the carcass value of a live beef animal is now available for loan from the Alberta Agriculture Film Library. A series of cross-section views of different beef steer carcasses show conformation and finish. Carcasses are evaluated for percent of fat, muscle and bone. Each is also graded according to the current beef grading system. Viewers can improve their skills in estimating the carcass quality and grade of live animals. The slide kit was adapted from the Iowa State Research Foundation production. For loan information, write the Alberta Agriculture Film Library at 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6.

## Coming Agricultural Events

1. Do you know of any provincial (Alberta), national or international agricultural meetings, conferences or conventions coming in December, 1990 or January, February or later in 1991?. Please state the name of the event.

2. What are the dates?

3. Where is the event being held? Include city or town; hotel and convention centre if known.

4. Please give the name, city or town, and phone number of a contact person for each event listed.

5. This form has been completed by (organization/contact/telephone number):

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Please return this form by **November** 23, 1990 to:
Agri-News Editor
Information Services Division
J.G. O'Donoghue Building
7000 - 113 Street Edmonton, Alberta
T6H 5T6

(Coming Agricultural Events is published four times a year in Agri-News. The next edition will be printed **December** 3, 1990.)

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For immediate release

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Alberta
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Phone: (403) 427-2121

October 29, 1990
For immediate release

# Consumers need better food safety information

Nothing in life is risk free, and food is no exception, but it's clearly within the power of everyone in the food chain, from producer to consumer, to minimize that risk.

Those sentiments were a common thread of a recent Alberta Agriculture seminar on food safety. Speakers from Alberta Agriculture, Agriculture Canada and the University of Alberta, assured participants Canadians have one of the safest, if not the safest, food system in the world. However, Canadian consumers still lack confidence in their food.

Better communication is one answer to a better consumer appreciation of the highly legislated and regulated Canadian food supply, participants were told. Communication is particularly important in a main area of consumer misunderstanding, "chemophobia". The public's fears are compounded because they're given information without interpretation of the risks, says Terry Church, director of Alberta Agriculture's animal health division.

"Chemical residues sound very ominous," he says. Sophisticated detection that can identify parts per trillion or quadrillion add to a feeling that any chemical that can be found is bad. A part per million is equivalent to one second in 12 days and a part per quadrillion is the same as one second in 32 million years.

Speakers pointed out consumers tend to reverse the order of the dangers in their food, putting microbial contaminants last on their list of dangers. In fact microbial contaminants, such as salmonella bacteria, are at the top of the risk list. The scientific perspective on risks can be summarized by a 1987 United States National Academy of Sciences report conclusion that: "The American public faces no threat from pesticide residues at the dinner table. The risk from environmental contaminants is 1,000 times less than microbial contamination, and the risk from pesticide residues is 100 times smaller again".

(Cont'd)

Fears of toxins comes without the realization that the most potent toxins known to man are made by nature, says food microbiology professor Michael Stiles, of the University of Alberta. He says that makes it necessary to "work with the consumer who is the worst abuser of food."

Stiles was echoed by Aileen Whitmore, Alberta Agriculture provincial foods and nutrition specialist. "The food business isn't regulated in the home, where food is handled and prepared. That's where most--around 80 per cent--of the microbial contamination takes place. People don't take enough care in washing their hands and cleaning knives and counters. Or, they don't thoroughly cook ground meats."

Representatives of Agriculture Canada outlined the extensive testing of chemical products before they can be used to produce food and testing of domestic and imported food. Wayne Morris, director of Agriculture Canada's agri-food safety division, says the federal department is stepping up the number of samples in its testing program. By 1991-92 nearly 150,000 chemical residue tests will be done annually. This compares to about 13,000 samples taken in 1984-85.

Morris says one the main challenges will be testing other sectors as much as what currently happens in the meat sector. Enhanced vigilance is essential to a safe food supply, he notes. And that, "We can ill afford to put any segment of that industry (food) in danger through monitoring and regulation."

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Contact: Dr. Terry Church
427-2166

Aileen Whitmore
427-2412

October 29, 1990
For immediate release

# Public, producer animal welfare perspectives need bridge

Producers need to take steps now to bridge the gap between how agriculture raises animals and how the public thinks they raise animals, to avoid being legislated into how they'll raise their livestock.

David Fraser, of Agriculture Canada's Animal Research Centre in Ottawa, told a farm animal welfare workshop in Edmonton, there's a wide diversity of attitudes in animal movements encompassing three different historical movements, humane, vegetarian and antivivisection.

While this diversity should be considered as the agriculture industry responds to farm animal welfare issues, it shouldn't be distracted by this diversity, he says. "We can and should ensure that our production practices conform to what the intelligent consumer regards as ethically acceptable. But in doing this, we must recognize that there are some fringe elements that we simply cannot please, and we shouldn't allow our initiatives in animal welfare to be deflected or discouraged by minority elements with extreme positions."

Still, the gap between the out-of-touch urban population and farm realities has to be bridged. If the gap becomes too big, how farmers treat their animals will be legislated, he says. The better course is for producer organizations to set and police "professional" standards.

The bridge must also include better communication with the public. "I've heard people criticize producers for clipping the teeth of newborn piglets, as if this were some type of torture inflicted on pigs to exploit them for greater profit. When we point out why we carry out tooth-clipping, the criticism generally stops," Fraser says.

Finally, Fraser says, the agricultural industry should ensure it works with the humane movement as changes are made.

Terry Church, director of Alberta Agriculture's animal health division agrees the industry should continue to work with responsible organizations such as the Alberta Society for the Protection of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA).

(Cont'd)

Public, producer animal welfare perspectives need bridge (cont'd)

He says he believes radical animal rights groups haven't become strongly established here because of comprehensive animal protection legislation and strong and healthy animal welfare organizations.

Alberta's Animal Protection Act first become law in 1967 and, along with its regulations, was amended in 1987.

The farm animal welfare in the 1990s workshop was organized by the Edmonton branch of the Alberta Institute of Agrologists.

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Contact: Dr. Terry Church
427-2166

October 29, 1990
For immediate release

# Measuring animal welfare by behavior

Stress, health and fitness are all linked to an animal's welfare, but none are absolute measures.

So says animal behaviorist Ian Duncan of the University of Guelph. Health is an incomplete measure of well-being, because suffering may occur even if the animal is in good physical condition. Some stressful acts are rewarding, so stress isn't always negative. And, while welfare should take into account all evidence of health, production, physiology and biochemistry and behavior, Duncan puts an emphasis on behavior.

Welfare, he says, is all to do with feelings. A step above sensory perception, feelings are an awareness of bodily events. Unlike perception, feelings don't interpret external events. But, feelings can be shown in behavior.

In his conclusion to a recent animal welfare workshop in Edmonton, Duncan told his audience while welfare is dependent on what animals feel about their conditions and husbandry, testing needs to be done to give researchers more insight into those feelings.

Duncan advocates preference testing, giving animals choices in their environment as a way to measure subjective feelings. One example, he cited, was hens choosing conventional wire netting floors over a metal grid when given a choice. But, he cautioned, preference testing has to be backed up by looking at the motivation of the animal, or how hard it would "work" to change its conditions. In tests more than a decade ago, pigs wouldn't work very hard to switch lights on, although they chose light over darkness in preference testing.

Preference testing is just one of the advantages of using animal behavior to assess welfare, he says. By looking at abnormal behaviors and at states of suffering such as frustration, fear and pain, researchers can also make assessments of welfare.

(Cont'd)

But, he says, these advantages aren't without drawbacks. Abnormal behavior is difficult to support because animals are extremely adaptable and behavior itself, is poorly defined and difficult to interpret.

Welfare, he says, is at the intersection of science and ethics. Scientists can provide information such as disease risk and stresses, while ethical decisions are made by society as a whole. He adds aesthetics, or how an agricultural practice looks to the public, is also part of the equation.

The farm animal welfare in the 1990s workshop was organized by the Edmonton branch of the Alberta Institute of Agrologists.

October 29, 1990
For immediate release

# Optimism reflected in ADC annual report

Agriculture minister Ernie Isley has released the 1989-90 financial statement for the Alberta Agricultural Development Corporation (ADC), which, he says, "reveal a new sense of confidence in Alberta's agricultural economy".

"I am happy to say that ADC results are encouraging. Direct lending was up, arrears were down and the number of farmers in difficulty has dropped considerably from the previous year," says Isley. "Even though pricing and marketing problems persist, I believe Alberta farmers are optimistic about the future."

Isley also notes an increase in lending to ADC's agribusiness clients. "In one year, we have more than doubled our lending to entrepreneurs who develop products from primary agriculture. This creates new markets for our farmers, and stimulates the economy in a substantial way." Isley says ADC helps to diversify the agricultural economy by its financial counselling and lending services to such businesses as food processors, equipment manufacturers, seed cleaning operations and forage processors. "These business are all adding value to our products."

The year was highlighted by a new emphasis on client service at ADC. New services, like the innovative vendor mortgage plan, were devised to answer the needs of the farm credit marketplace. ADC also played a key role in the province's $14.9 million Northwestern Alberta Disaster Assistance Loan program, aiding farmers in that region to recover from torrential rainstorms in 1989.

Isley is especially pleased the corporation's 1988 reorganization bore fruit in the past fiscal year. "There is no question that ADC now runs a more efficient operation. We are serving our clients better, making decisions faster, and focusing on field operations more," he says.

(Cont'd)

Optimism reflected in ADC annual report (cont'd)

Direct farm lending in 1989-90 rose to $85.6 million, up from $69.3 million in 1988-89. ADC's farm lending since 1972, including specific guarantees, totals $1.6 billion. ADC also guarantees loans under the Alberta Farm Development Loan program (AFDL), which allows farmers to obtain credit from banks, credit unions and Treasury Branches with longer terms and lower interest rates than would otherwise be possible. Total guarantees under this program since inception reached $1.3 billion.

"ADC offers programs that help people and assist agriculture," says Isley. "For many years, farmers have looked to ADC's Beginning Farmer Program, ADC's core program, to help them get a healthy start. Without it, many productive farmers would not be in business today. I'm proud that since 1972 ADC has made more than 139,000 loans and guarantees to farmers and agribusinesses."

ADC is a Crown corporation delivering financial consulting and lending services to farmers, secondary food processors and other agribusinesses in the province.

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Contact: Bob Splane
679-1302

October 29, 1990
For immediate release

# Camrose seminar targets 1990 product marketing

Farmers who want to market, and not just sell, their 1990 products can take in a "target your market" seminar in Camrose November 15 and 16.

"The two days aren't a market outlook, it's a specific look at how farmers and ranchers can maximize their return on what they've raised this year," says George Rock, Alberta Agriculture district agriculturist in Camrose. "Seminar speakers will share their insight into potential new markets, innovative marketing and where they see markets moving in the next few months."

A mix of government and private industry experts will discuss livestock and grains markets. Included on the agenda are: dealer bonding; options for feeder cattle; off-track loading; potential products; hay marketing; currency and marketing; broker trading; grain transportation; and, specific cattle, wheat, barley and canola markets.

Each day will begin with a keynote speaker. Leading off is Doug Livingstone, former Alberta Wheat Pool president, with a producer's view of the 1990s. The second day features David Wong, Alberta Agriculture senior trade director, discussing opportunities in the Pacific Rim.

Rock notes that registration is $35 per farm and lunch packages are an additional $15.

Alberta Agriculture district offices in north central, north east and north west regions have brochures with program and registration information. For further information, contact Rock or David Samm in Camrose at 679-1210.

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Contact: George Rock
679-1210

David Samm
679-1210

October 29, 1990
For immediate release

# Protect strawberries over winter

Mulching strawberries can save plants from winter damage and ultimately give the garden grower better yields says an Alberta Agriculture horticulturist.

Mulches are used to prevent the plants and flower buds from freezing says Pam North, information officer at the Alberta Tree Nursery and Horticultural Centre. "By protecting the flower buds you should increase your berry crop," she adds.

Covering the plants is especially important in areas when snow cover is light or lacking, or on a southern exposure where snow melts early.

If the ground is dry, plants should be watered before the ground freezes. The ground usually freezes around the end of October or early November.

Mulches should be applied after a few frosts, not colder than minus nine, and when the plants are dormant. This is usually around mid November. North advises applying the mulch in the morning when the ground is frozen before any thawing that might occur through the day.

All types of materials can be used for mulches, however North recommends wheat straw as the best mulch. "It's thick and light and doesn't break down," she notes. Hay has too many seeds to be a good mulch. Grass clipping and leaves aren't recommended because they compact easily and become soggy. Peat moss can be used, but is light and may be blown away. "If you use peat moss, anchor it with spruce boughs or another material," she says. She recommends covering plants to a depth of 10 cm.

In the spring after the danger of severe frost has passed, mulches can be removed, she says. "If the mulch is removed too early, blossoms are subject to late spring frosts. If the mulch is left on too long, it causes succulent growth that can freeze easily and also delays blossoming."

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Contact: Pam North
422-1789

October 29, 1990
For immediate release

Agri-News briefs

ACTS ANNUAL MEETING AT JANUARY SOIL CONSERVATION WORKSHOP

The Alberta Conservation Tillage Society (ACTS) will hold its 13th annual meeting in conjunction with the 1991 provincial soil conservation workshop January 15 through 17 in Edmonton. ACTS, the Canada/Alberta Soil Conservation Initiative (CASCI) and the Canada/Alberta Agreement on Soil, Water and Cropping Research and Technology Transfer (CARTT) agreed to combine the convention and workshop this year. "It's hoped the new format will encourage producers to attend and avoid duplication of efforts," says co-ordinator Peter Gamache. The ACTS meeting is scheduled for late afternoon on January 15. The workshop will emphasize management practices producers can adapt to their farms while maintaining or increasing productivity. Joint registration forms will be available in mid November from ACTS directors, municipal agricultural fieldmen and Alberta Agriculture district offices. For more information, contact Gamache in Edmonton at 422-4385 or Russ Evans, ACTS executive manager in Langdon, at 936-5306.

AFPA'S 2ND SUMMER PROMOTION SUCCESSFUL

Between June and September the Alberta Food Processor Association's (AFPA) "Take an Alberta Break" promotion was on the road spreading the good taste of Alberta Made food and beverage products throughout the province. Alberta Made Ambassadors in two motorhomes made over 150 stops at rodeos, parades, farmers' markets, agricultural fairs, community events and IGA stores across urban and rural Alberta. Through the promotion, AFPA and its sponsors reinforced their year-round marketing efforts through one-on-one communication with Alberta residents and visitors. "This is a great program for us," says AFPA president Paul Murphy, "As it allows us to visit all rural communities at a grass roots level during their summer festivals." He adds, success is a team effort. "The district home economists were once again an integral part

(Cont'd)

AFPA'S 2ND SUMMER PROMOTION SUCCESSFUL (cont'd)
of this promotion, helping us to set the itineraries, and working together to promote Alberta Made food and beverage products. The program also received a lot of support from the media, particularly from members of the Alberta Weekly Newspaper Association." Currently preparations are underway for the promotion's third season. For more information about the promotion or to include your community, contact Kim Strynadka in Edmonton at 426-0366.

BARLEY SEMINARS AT 13 LOCATIONS IN NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER

The Western Barley Growers Association (WBGA) and Alberta Agriculture district agriculturists have teamed together for a series of 13 Alberta Barley Commission and cereal marketing seminars. Each seminar will include an update from the area district agriculturist, a barley research update, information about a proposed Alberta Barley Commission, Don Bousquet on farm market news and a transportation update at selected locations. The afternoon seminars start November 19 in Taber and conclude December 13 in Rycroft. Other locations and dates are as follows: Claresholm, November 20; Olds College, November 21; Drumheller, November 22; Sedgewick, December 3; Lacombe, December 4; Two Hills, December 5; Glendon, December 6; Wetaskiwin, December 10; Barrhead, December 11; and, Falher, December 12. To pre-register call the Alberta Agriculture district agriculturist at those locations. For more information, call Anne Schneider at the WBGA office in Calgary at 291-3630.

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# AGRI-NEWS

CANADIANA

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November 5, 1990

For immediate release

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Alberta
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Phone: (403) 427-2121

November 5, 1990
For immediate release

# Dried whey new value-added product

Most people's knowledge of whey is limited to the old nursery rhyme, but the cheese making by-product is soon to become an additional product of the Central Alberta Dairy Pool's (CADP) Glenwood plant.

By June next year Western Canada's only cheese whey drying plant will be operational. The plant is part of a major expansion of the southern Alberta cheese factory that will make it Western Canada's largest.

Liquid whey is a by-product of cheese manufacturing and makes up about 90 per cent of the milk volume used in cheese production. While some of the liquid whey has been used as an animal feed, the rest has been disposed of by field-spraying or municipal waste treatment systems.

That disposal has been at an increasing cost to the cheese manufacturer, says Bob Tchir, a development officer with Alberta Agriculture's processed food development section. "Now, the company will be selling the by-product instead of having to dispose of most of it, turning a cost into a benefit. It will produce an economically valuable product----crystallized dried whey powder--by an environmentally sound method."

When the Glenwood drying plant is working, liquid whey will be processed using evaporators and a state-of-the-art spray dryer. The facility will employ six people and have a daily output of 12,500 kg of dried sweet whey, says Alvin Johnstone, CADP general manager.

Dried whey is used as an ingredient in a wide range of food products such as processed cheese, ice cream, baked goods, candies, processed meat products and animal feeds. Demand for the natural ingredient is increasing, says Tchir, and CADP anticipates selling the dried whey across Western Canada.

(Cont'd)

Dried whey new value-added product (cont'd)

Alberta Agriculture has been involved with the project since 1987 when a market research survey included questions on demand for whey powder in Western Canada. Results from the survey were presented to CADP.

"When CADP expressed an interest in dried whey's potential, our department's agri-food and processing development branch and dairy processing branch provided technical information and sources of equipment to the company, as well as investigating whey prices, stock and supplies," says Tchir.

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Contact: Bob Tchir
427-7325

Herb Kuchenbecker
346-2074

Ken Waldon
352-1220

November 5, 1990
For immediate release

# Alberta dairy producers surveyed in November

Alberta's 1,500 dairy producers will receive a survey in the mail this week asking about their operation and Alberta Agriculture extension services.

The survey could help producers increase the profit potential of their operation, says Bill Slack, Alberta Agriculture regional dairy specialist in Barrhead. The confidential survey includes questions in a number of management areas including feeding, breeding, health, culling, herd size, health and labor requirements.

"By taking 20 minutes to fill out the questionnaire and then sending it in with their name and address, producers will get back a report identifying potential management changes to consider," he says.

"We're also asking our producers how they received extension information in the past and what they preferred," he adds. "This will help us plan future extension events.

"This really makes the survey dual purpose. It can help producers with their own operation, and give them a role in shaping dairy extension activities."

Surveys will be mailed out by November 5 and the deadline for their return is November 30, 1990.

"If producers have any questions about the survey, they should call their regional specialist," says Slack. Regional specialists are based in Lethbridge, Airdrie, Red Deer, Vermilion, Barrhead and Grande Prairie.

Alberta Agriculture is conducting the survey in co-operation with the Alberta Dairy Herd Improvement Service, the Alberta Dairymen's Association and the Alberta Milk Producers Society.

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Contact: Bill Slack
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Al McNeil
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November 5, 1990
For immediate release

# Isley leads mission to Mexico

Agriculture minister Ernie Isley (second from right) led a delegation of Charolais breeders to an international conference in Mexico. He poses above with Ken Aylesworth (left), general manager of the Canadian Charolais Association, and delegates from around the world at the 26th World Charolais Congress.

Alberta Agriculture Minister Ernie Isley recently led a delegation of Canadian Charolais breeders attending the 26th World Charolais Congress of the International Federation of Charolais Breeders in Monterrey, Mexico.

History was made at the Congress when, following 20 years of meetings and negotiations, the Alberta delegation succeeded in reaching an important agreement with the member countries of the International Federation of Charolais Breeders. The Federation agreed by a vote of its members to recognize Canada's purebred Charolais pedigree. The Federation members also agreed to set up parallel herdbooks throughout the world, to allow for registration and transfer of purebred Canadian Charolais within each federation member country.

(Cont'd)

"This history-making vote means that lucrative new marketing opportunities throughout the world will now be open for Canadian Charolais breeders," says Isley. "It's important to note that international recognition of Canada's purebred Charolais will also open the door to world-wide recognition of other breeds improved by Canadian livestock breeders."

Before the vote, Isley addressed 650 Charolais breeders from around the world, and encouraged the breeders to consider the contributions made by Canadians in the development of a purebred Charolais animal of very high quality.

Ken Aylesworth, general manager of the Canadian Charolais Association, was a member of the Alberta delegation. He says, "Mr. Isley's support on behalf of Alberta Charolais breeders was the key to the successful outcome of the vote."

Tim Bullick, president of the Alberta Charolais Association, also represented breeders on the mission to Mexico. "This milestone in Charolais history allows for tremendous export opportunities for Alberta breeders in many countries where no markets were ever considered possible," he says.

"What our success on this mission means," says Isley, "Is that Canadian Charolais breeders will finally receive their just reward for the many years spent in improving our country's purebred Charolais animal, which is felt by many to be the best Charolais in the world."

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Contact: Jim Kiss
427-2137

Doug Bienert
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November 5, 1990
For immediate release

# Crow Benefit affected by Canadian GATT offer

Canada's new GATT offer has major implications for the future of the Crow Benefit, say Alberta's agriculture ministers.

In a statement released on October 25, Agriculture Minister Ernie Isley and Associate Agriculture Minister Shirley McClellan stressed the urgent need to review the method of payment of the Crow Benefit, in light of the proposal submitted by Canada to the GATT negotiations.

"What the offer means for the Crow Benefit as it is currently paid, is a possible reduction of up to 50 per cent over 10 years, or even 100 per cent elimination. We must take steps now to ensure that Western Canadian farmers will not suffer unnecessary losses in the adjustment process, which could start as early as next year," says Isley.

Under Canada's GATT proposal, agricultural export subsidies would be eliminated and trade distorting domestic subsidies would be cut by up to 50 per cent during a 10-year phase in period, on the condition that key Canadian objectives are achieved.

"The strength of agriculture in Alberta relies absolutely upon our ability to trade -- trade liberalization is vital to our future prosperity," says McClellan. "Reduction of trade distorting domestic subsidies through a GATT agreement would therefore be good news for Alberta's agriculture industry, provided that world grain trade and international prices responded. But it is essential that we bear in mind the potential impact of the GATT negotiations on the transportation costs paid by farmers."

In its submission to GATT, Canada has defined the Western Grain Transportation Act Crow Benefit as an internal support measure. As such, it could face reductions of up to 50 per cent over 10 years, if the Canadian offer were to become the basis of a GATT agreement. As it is currently paid, however, the status of the Crow Benefit as an internal support could be challenged within the GATT, and the Benefit defined instead as a trade distorting export subsidy. In that case, Western Canadian farmers could face 100 per cent elimination of the Crow.

(Cont'd)

"With the reduction offered in Canada's submission to GATT, the Crow Benefit payment to the railways could be cut from $720 million per year to $360 million per year. But the costs of grain transportation, which are rising all the time, would still have to be met, and the burden of making up the shortfall would fall largely on grain farmers," says Mr. Isley.

From a farmer's perspective, the implications are serious. Farmers shipping grain by rail could face cost increases of more than $10 per tonne. Producers would continue to be discouraged from diversifying their operations, and the domestic price of feed grains would remain artificially high, inhibiting expansion in the livestock sector.

With their statement, the agriculture ministers released the results of a number of studies. The first shows that, under the scenario of a GATT-driven 50 per cent reduction of the Crow Benefit, Western Canadian farmers could experience a predicted loss of revenue of more than $360 million annually. The second study shows if a federal government buy-out of the Crow Benefit were implemented, however, farmers would see a forecast increase in revenue of more than $695 million annually. The federal buy-out plan is advocated in Freedom to Choose, Alberta Agriculture's recently released proposal for transportation reform.

An additional study examines the impact of the two alternatives at the individual farm level, looking at nine farms considered to be typical operations, as well as three examples identified by the Alberta Wheat Pool. This analysis shows that even those farms producing nothing but export grain would be better off under a buy-out proposal, provided that grain handling and transportation efficiency gains were achieved. Mixed farms selling product in both the domestic and the export markets would receive even greater benefits. On the other hand, all farms that export crops would suffer a decrease in revenue under a 50 per cent reduction of the Crow Benefit under the current method of payment.

(Cont'd)

Crow Benefit affected by Canadian GATT offer (cont'd)

"It's clear that our agriculture industry must make some tough decisions soon about the manner in which the Crow Benefit is paid," says McClellan. "What has to be stressed is that the wrong decision could be very costly to Western Canadian farmers. The difference between the revenue gain that could result from a buy-out of the Crow and the revenue loss that could result from staying with the status quo under GATT is more than $1 billion annually."

Adds Isley,"Because export sales are so very important to our economy, Canada is going to have to play its part in liberalizing world trade. This does not prevent us, however, from choosing for ourselves the way in which we'll adjust to meet our international obligations. The crucial question is, what's the best way to maximize the gain for our farmers? Freedom to Choose provides an answer to that question."

Further information regarding the Freedom to Choose proposal can be obtained by calling the following toll-free number: 1-800-661-0056. The line is open weekdays from 8:15 am to 4:30 pm Alberta time.

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Contact: Ken Beswick
427-2417

Gordon Herrington
427-2417

November 5, 1990
For immediate release

# Alberta 4-H leaders explore community resources

Six Alberta volunteer 4-H leaders joined 50 of their peers from across Western Canada to recharge their batteries at a leadership conference in the Okanagan.

The 4-H ResourcesWest conference, October 31 through November 4, explored new resources available to leaders and offered workshops on current issues facing 4-H volunteers in rural Canada.

Alberta participants were: Dwayne Grover, a nine-year leader with the Rainbow Riders 4-H Horse Club (Stettler); Marie Birkbeck, an eight-year leader with the Greencourt Willing Workers (Mayerthorpe); Bev Homeniuk, a four-year leader with the Willingdon Multi Club; Donna Conrad, a three-year leader with Clairmont 4-H Multi; Glen Tetreau, a five-year leader with the Sexsmith/Clairmont 4-H Beef Busters; and, Joanne Gourley, a five-year leader with the Foothills 4-H Sheep Club (Okotoks). Also attending the conference was Doug Norman, regional 4-H specialist in Stettler. The leaders were selected through the Alberta 4-H Leaders Development program.

The keynote workshop at the conference focused on leadership, motivation and communications. Other workshops included a look at the legal rights and responsibilities of volunteers, the roles and responsibilities of volunteers related to child abuse issues, an agricultural awareness workshop and a session on how to maximize community resources for the benefit of 4-H and rural communities.

4-H ResourcesWest was sponsored by the Canadian 4-H Council's Rural Life Opportunities Program with assistance from Agriculture Canada's Canadian Agri-Food Development Initiative and the provincial 4-H councils across Western Canada. The conference was hosted by the B.C. 4-H Provincial Council and organized by the B.C. Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries rural organizations branch.

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Contact: Marguerite Stark
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November 5, 1990
For immediate release

# Alberta Agriculture Appointments

## REGIONAL FAMILY RESOURCE SPECIALIST APPOINTED

Jo-Ann Hall is Alberta Agriculture's newest regional family resource management specialist. She will be based in Barrhead and serve the northwest and Peace regions. Hall already has a good understanding of her new position. "I spent eight months, between August last year and this March, filling in while my predecessor worked at the farm business management branch," she says. In her new duties, Hall is responsible for developing factsheets and other resource materials in the areas of personal financial planning, insurance, personnel management and farm family communication. She also will train district home economists in those subject areas. For the last eight years Hall has been a district home economist, working in Sangudo, High River and most recently in Fort Saskatchewan. Originally from Vermilion, Hall is a 1982 graduate of the University of Alberta's BSc in home economics program. She can be reached in Barrhead at 674-8253.

## NEW DISTRICT HOME ECONOMIST IN OYEN

Mary Ellen Norgard is the new Alberta Agriculture district home economist in Oyen. As district home economist, Norgard provides a wide range of programs and information from nutrition to financial management to rural families. She also promotes Alberta food products and works with 4-H groups in her district. Norgard's work experience includes three years with the Canadian Western Natural Gas Company's Blue Flame Kitchen in Calgary between 1978 and 1981. Raised on a mixed cattle and grain farm near Claresholm, she attended the University of Alberta and graduated with a BSc in home economics in 1978. "I look forward to working with farm families and rural organizations in the Oyen area," she says. Norgard can be reached in Oyen at 664-3899.

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November 5, 1990
For immediate release

Agri-News briefs

PULSE COMMISSION ANNUAL MEETING DEC.5-7

Perfect pulses is the theme of the second annual Alberta Pulse Growers Commission meeting in Calgary December 5 through 7. The meeting will address a number of key issues currently affecting the pulse industry. As well as the business part of the meeting, producers will hear presentations from a number of keynote speakers. Anita Stanger, chief of Agriculture Canada's food processing development, will discuss future consumer food trends. Jennifer Hillard, of the Consumer Association of Canada, will present an update on the federal pesticide review. Also on the agenda are: a market situation and outlook for peas, beans and lentils; the role of pulses in sustainable agriculture; the GST's effect on farmers; a nutritional update on feed peas; and, pulse grower reports from across Canada. For more information or to pre-register, contact Jan Roth at 237-0626 in Lethbridge.

NATIONAL OUTSTANDING YOUNG FARMERS NAMED

Two Ontario dairy farm couples and mixed farmers from Saskatchewan were named the 1990 W.R. Motherwell award winners as Canada's Outstanding Young Farmers. The winners are: Ted and Wilma Smith of Sunderland, Ontario; Brian and Joyce Belluz of Thunderbay, Ontario; and, Lynn and Sherri Grant of Val Marie, Saskatchewan. Alberta was represented by John and Bonnie VanNistelrooy of Enchant. The Outstanding Young Farmers recognition program honors farmers across Canada for their contributions to agriculture, their nation and the world. Major sponsors include the Canadian Junior Chamber of Commerce, the Bank of Montreal, John Deere and Hoechst Canada. For more information, contact Terry Sinton in Calgary at 251-1373 or 245-7972.

LANTA CONVENTION AND TRADE SHOW IN BANFF

The Landscape Alberta Nursery Trades Association (LANTA) convention and "best in the West trade show" will be in Banff November 29 through

(Cont'd)

LANTA CONVENTION AND TRADE SHOW IN BANFF (cont'd)

December 1 at the Banff Springs Hotel. On the conference itinerary are: estimating for better profits; future trends in woody plants, pests and diseases; the pesticide certification dispenser program; a nursery production methods and propagation facilities panel; Alberta 1st Call; the Canadian Garden Council; determining replacement value of trees and shrubs in Alberta; an environment, chemical and the nursery industry panel; alternative insecticides; landscape maintenance; estimating and equipment costs; and, environmental issues in sod growing. Also included are the environmental beautification awards luncheon. For more information, call Judy at the LANTA office at 489-1991.

SOUTHERN AG SOCIETIES MINI CONFERENCE

A mystery prize will go to the agricultural society with the largest community delegation at the fourth annual southern Alberta agricultural societies mini conference November 23 and 24 in Taber. Among agenda topics are tourism services available to agricultural societies, organizing operating grants, getting and keeping volunteers, a look at the fair of the future and the direction of agricultural societies. Back this year is "hopics", a chance to talk to members of other agricultural societies as you hop from topic to topic. Hopics includes new fair ideas and events, keeping members up to date, reviews and grants and the pros and cons of agricultural societies benefiting from joint agreements. Delegates are also encouraged to bring their own mugs for a mug exchange and use at coffee breaks. November 16 is the registration deadline. For more information, contact Rae Hunter in Edmonton at 427-2171.

NEW PHONE NUMBERS FOR O.S. LONGMAN ANIMAL HEALTH OFFICES

A new telephone system at Alberta Agriculture's O.S. Longman Building means new telephone numbers for animal health division offices in that building. Changes are as follows: Veterinary Pathology branch,

(Cont'd)

NEW PHONE NUMBERS FOR O.S. LONGMAN ANIMAL HEALTH OFFICES (cont'd) animal section--422-1923, poultry section--427-2238, theriogenology section--422-1889, branch head/parasitology--427-6406, and FAX (unchanged)--422-3438; Veterinary diagnostics branch, (unchanged)--427-6535, branch head and histology, microbiology and virology/serology sections--422-4830, toxicology--427-2270, and FAX (number unchanged)--427-1437; health managment branch, all sections/specialists, 422-4844 and FAX (unchanged)--427-1437; and, meat hygiene branch-422-4857, 422-4862 and 427-3456.

AGRIBITION CELEBRATES 20 YEARS THIS NOVEMBER

The Canada Western Agribition celebrates its 20th anniversary this year November 22 through 30. This year's attractions in Regina include livestock shows and sales, rodeo, agri-ed showcase, international 4-H judging seminar, trade show, a Western lifestyles showcase and major issue dialogues with agricultural speakers from across the country. For more information, contact the Agribition office in Regina at (306)565-0565.

TREE PRUNING WORKSHOPS IN EDMONTON AND CALGARY

Hands on four-day tree pruning workshops for the practitioner and the novice will be held in Edmonton later this month and in Calgary in early December. Offered through Olds College extension services, the workshops supplement skills of practiced pruners as well as teach the beginner more about assessing and dealing with a variety of tree situations. The Edmonton course is November 21 through 24 and the Calgary course December 5 through 8. Among the workshop topics are: tree biology and its relationship to tree care; the nature of wounds; tools/equipment and their maintenance; liabilities; juvenile tree and shrub care; hazardous and mature tree evaluation; and, preventative, corrective and reconstructive pruning practices. For more information, call Olds College at 556-8344.

# AGRI-NEWS

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For immediate release

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Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Print Media Branch

Phone: (403) 427-2121

November 12, 1990
For immediate release

# Fair kicks off "agricultural ambassador" program

A special one day school fair chock full of special events will launch the Agricultural Ambassador Program on November 24.

Students from across the province have entered displays, poems, posters, audio visual productions and special projects in the inaugural Agricultural Ambassador Fair in Medicine Hat.

The fair competition categories encompass all grades from one through 12 and involve topics and projects in social studies, science and language arts. Included in the list of topics are: agricultural careers, production, environment/conservation, global food issues, food safety, marketing, the economic importance of agriculture, technology and food processing, the farmer, people in agriculture and people in agricultural issues.

"The different fair classes themselves show agriculture's diversity and how agriculture can be incorporated into the classroom in a number of subject areas," says Betty Gabert, Alberta Agriculture Ag in the Classroom co-ordinator and one of the fair's organizers. "We think that's a good launching point for the ambassador program, a program that will eventually designate a teacher agricultural ambassador in every Alberta school."

Gabert says there has been an excellent response to the fair, starting with the education minister and the school superintendents in the southern region, to schools across the province after the fair was first advertised in early October. "One school alone has planned 70 entries, plus we have indications from many others about their participation," she says.

Alberta Agriculture and the Alberta Wheat Pool are the joint sponsors of the provincial Agricultural Ambassador Program. The program is an extension of the Summer Agricultural Institute, an intensive 12-day, full-credit, fourth year university level course for teachers. Institute graduates will be a first source of ambassadors, says Gabert.

(Cont'd)

Southern Alberta is the first target area for the ambassador program. The Medicine Hat fair follows the first Summer Agricultural Institute held in Lethbridge last August. Other regions will be targeted for a promotional fair and designating agricultural ambassadors in that region's schools as the Institute moves around the province.

Each school's agricultural ambassador will be supported with training workshops, classroom materials and a major network of agricultural industry contacts.

This first fair was also designed for fun, Gabert says. Among the special events are goat milking, sack races, egg and spoon races, butter making, hay rides, vegetable printing, angora goat grooming, calf roping, a sheep to shawl activity, square dancing and a media hog calling contest.

A luncheon, featuring Alberta Made products, for exhibitors and special guests will include presentation of awards to fair winners.

This year's fair was organized by a nine-member committee including Gabert and Cindy Dixon, Ag in the Classroom co-ordinators; Lawrence Nicholson, regional Alberta Wheat Pool representative; Dann Sodero, general manager of the Medicine Hat Exhibition and Stampede; Patrick Galshan, superintendent of the Medicine Hat Roman Catholic Separate School District; Gary Hill, Medicine Hat School Division; Barb Shackel, Alberta Agriculture conservation awareness specialist; Stan Dereniwski, Medicine Hat district agriculturist; and, Brenda Lea Rumohr, Bow Island district home economist.

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Contact: Betty Gabert
427-2402

November 12, 1990
For immediate release

# Affairs of the foot coming in December

The "foot affair--whoof cares" will be making stops in Red Deer, Rocky Mountain House and Stony Plain in early December.

In a day long workshop for dairy and beef producers, Paul Greenough of the Western College of Veterinary Medicine will discuss management for hoof soundness and what the show ring is doing to conformation. He'll also give a practical hoof trimming demonstration.

"Dr. Greenough led three similar workshops last winter that were very well received," says Al McNeil, Alberta Agriculture regional dairy specialist in Red Deer.

The seminar isn't only for dairy producers. "Beef producers will find the session on conformation particularly interesting," he says.

In management for hoof soundness, Greenough examines sub clinical laminitis and the effects of feeding on hoof soundness. His hoof trimming demonstration isn't on how to trim, but, says McNeil, "tells the producer what to watch for".

The first workshop is in Red Deer on December 5, followed by Rocky Mountain House on December 6 and concludes in Stony Plain on December 7. Workshops begin with registration and coffee at 9:30 and will finish just after 3 p.m.

To register, or for more information on the hoof care workshops, contact the local Alberta Agriculture district offices, McNeil in Red Deer at 340-7602 or Bill Slack, Barrhead regional dairy specialist, at 674-8256.

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Contact: Al McNeil
340-7602

Bill Slack
674-8256

November 12, 1990
For immediate release

Horse breeder, owner conference coming in January

Behavior, managing brood mares and marketing are the major topic areas at the sixth annual Horse Breeders and Owners conference in Red Deer January 11 through 13.

"The conference is for the serious horse owner and breeder and attracts participants from across Western Canada," says Les Burwash, supervisor of Alberta Agriculture's horse industry branch.

More than a dozen speakers from across North America will share their expertise with participants. Featured speakers this year are R.M. Miller, an animal behaviorist from California, and Marvin Beeman, a Colorado veterinarian whose speciality is conformation.

"Mr. Miller is a dynamic speaker and humourist. As well as speaking on his speciality of animal behavior, he will be the Saturday evening speaker," says Bob Coleman, Alberta Agriculture provincial horse specialist. Miller is also a veterinarian and well known cartoonist.

Beeman, who works out of a large animal clinic, is an authority on the philosophy of form to function, or how conformation relates to performance. "He'll provide real insight to breeders," says Burwash.

For more information about the conference contact Burwash in Calgary at 205, 2003 McKnight Boulevard NE, Calgary, Alberta, T2E 6L2 or call 297-6650, or Bob Coleman, 905, O.S. Longman Building, 6909-116 Street, Edmonton, T6H 4P2 or call 427-8905.

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Contact: Les Burwash
297-6650

Bob Coleman
427-8905

November 12, 1990
For immediate release

Top 4-H livestock judges earn trips to international competitions

While most other people at Northlands Farmfair were looking at livestock, Alberta's top 4-H club member judges were doing more than looking.

The young judges spent two days earlier this month evaluating the merits of beef cattle, sheep, light horse, dairy cattle and swine classes at the fourth annual provincial multi species judging competition. When the weekend ended, 13 of the 68 participants had earned the right to compete at international judging competitions.

**Examining fine points in a horse class**

Tova Place, 17, of the Nanton Beef Club, was the first place winner in the competition. Place will travel to Denver in January and use her judging skills at the Denver Western National Stock Show. The Alberta Canada All Breeds Association (ACABA) sponsors this trip for Alberta's top 4-H judge. A dozen other members qualified to travel to Regina and Denver to two other judging competitions. The top 13 members, based on total overall points, qualify for the trip awards.

Next October, Alberta will be represented at the 1991 Western 4-H Round-up judging competition in Denver by: Sheila Thompson, 17, Milk River Beef; Wayne Sargeant, 17, Rimbey 4-H; Tamsin Hodgetts, 17, Camrose Beef; and, Troy Fisher, 18, of Roydale Beef (Mayerthorpe).

(Cont'd)

Top 4-H livestock judges earn trips to international competitions (cont'd)

Eight members will go to the International 4-H Judging Seminar at Regina's Agribition later this month. They are: Jason Bruketa, 17, Millarville Stockland; Stacey Sellers, 17, Birch Lake Bits and Spurs (Innisfree); Michele Porter, 18, Spruce Grove Beef, (Duffield); Angel Roberts, 21, Lone Star Multi (Barrhead); Laura James, 16, Foothills Sheep and Okotoks Beef; Scott Swanek, 17, Lethbridge-Coaldale Beef; Tim Ziegler, 16, Vegreville Multi; and, Chris Solick, 17, East Lacombe Beef.

Both trips are sponsored by Uniblok Canada, a division of Superior Feeds, in Rockyford.

"Competition was keen even before most of the participants reached Edmonton," says Henry Wiegman, provincial 4-H agriculture specialist. "In some of the regions there was so much interest that they held two to three qualifying events."

Participants heard experts discuss what to look for in each livestock class, including judging tips and livestock industry standards. Each competitor was judged on written and oral reasons in placing the five different livestock classes.

The competition is sponsored by Alberta Treasury Branches in co-operation with the host, Edmonton Northlands.

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Contact: Henry Wiegman
427-2541

November 12, 1990
For immediate release

Alberta 4-Hers travel to Denver

Four Alberta 4-Hers were the only Canadian judging team at a competition held in Denver during Colorado's National Western Youth Livestock Judging Competition. The team from left to right are: Stacey Sellers of Innisfree, Sherry Pfanmuller of Mayerthorpe, Shelley Meakin of Westlock and Michele Porter of Duffield.

Eight Alberta 4-H members travelled to Colorado last month to take part in that state's 4-H Roundup and a judging competition in Denver.

Four of the 4-Hers were chosen to take part in the National Western Youth Livestock and Meats Judging Competition last October at a provincial judging competition. Stacey Sellers of Innisfree, Sherry Pfanmuller of Mayerthorpe, Shelley Meakin of Westlock and Michele Porter of Duffield were the only Canadian team at the competition. Their trip was sponsored by Uniblok Canada, a division of Superior Feeds in Rockyford.

"They judged two swine classes and three classes of both sheep and beef," says Arlene Ross, Alberta Agriculture 4-H agriculture specialist, judging team coach and one of the trip chaperones. "Although they didn't place in the top of the competition, they were excellent representatives of Canada and Alberta."

(Cont'd)

Alberta 4-Hers travel to Denver (cont'd)

Other 4-H judging teams came from across the western United States, including Hawaii, and many eastern states as well.

The judging competition is one of the events held in conjunction with the Western 4-H Round-up, an educational program for 4-H members. Four Alberta 4-H members and a 4-H leader attended the event. The 4-H members--Lorna Armitage of Red Deer, Karmen Hodgson of Bowden, David Jans of Medicine Hat and Kelly Arntzen of Sedgewick--were chosen to represent the province last April at provincial 4-H Selections. Trip awards are based on 4-H and community involvement plus interpersonal skills. Leader Sandy Reber of Woking was chosen through the 4-H leader development program.

Celebrate 4-H was the theme of the 72nd annual edition of the Western 4-H Round-up and participants heard inspirational talks, took informational tours and attended educational workshops.

"Each of us went on a different tour around the Denver area," says Ross. Tours included the United States Airforce Academy, the Centennial Airport, the American Wheat Growers Association, the Colorado State University Equine Centre, the Arabian Horse Registry, the American Sheep Producers, an art museum, a performing arts centre, a bakery, a local television station and a western wear factory.

Round-up delegates were from the host state of Colorado plus Kansas, Montana, New Mexico, South Dakota, Utah and Wyoming. In total more than 700 4-H and Future Farmers of America delegates from 24 states and Alberta took part in the Round-up and related activities.

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Contact: Arlene Ross
427-2541

November 12, 1990
For immediate release

# Agri-News briefs

## CALGARY FUR AND FEATHER SHOW NOV.30-DEC.2

The 76th annual Alberta Provincial Poultry and Rabbit Show will feature over 500 different classes of poultry, Bantams, pheasants, turkeys, waterfowl, Guinea fowl, fancy pigeons, homer pigeons, cavies and rabbits. The three day show runs November 30 through December 2 at Stampede Park in Calgary. Admission is free and the show is open to the public from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. on November 30, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on December 1 and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on December 2. Schools or clubs are encouraged to visit as a group. The entry deadline is November 16. Special rosettes will be given to all junior exhibitors. Judges from throughout North America will be awarding ribbons, prize money and trophies. For more information, contact the Calgary Exhibition and Stampede at 261-0271 or FAX 264-2878 in Calgary.

## ANNUAL WSGA CONVENTION AND SHORT COURSE DEC.11-13

The 95th annual Western Stock Grower's Association (WSGA) convention and short course will be in Kananaskis Country December 11 through 13. The theme of "surviving in a changing world" will be addressed by a number of speakers, including three speakers from the Foundation for Economic Education. Other featured speakers are Tim Ball on the greenhouse effect and Alberta Senator Stan Waters. For more information, contact Pam Miller, WSGA secretary-manager in Calgary at 250-9121 or FAX 250-9122.

## WHAT'S IN STOCK FOR YOU?

The 1990 "What's in Stock for You?" conference focuses on planning a successful beef operation in the 1990s. The conference will run December 11 through 13 in Saskatoon. Among conference topics are replacement heifer development and farm resource management. For more information, contact Bob Drysdale in Regina at (306)787-2045.

(Cont'd)

ACABA CONFERENCE LOOKS AT MARKETING OPPORTUNITIES

Livestock producers can learn more about international marketing opportunities for pure bred cattle, semen and embryo sales in the United States, Latin America and the Soviet Union at a marketing conference in Red Deer December 12 and 13. The third annual marketing conference for the purebred cattle industry is sponsored by the Alberta Canada All Breeds Association (ACABA). This year's theme is "meeting your customers needs". A featured speaker is Alan Herscovici who will discuss how animal rightists use the media. To register, or for more information, contact the ACABA office at 282-8181.

FORAGING AHEAD IN THE '90S

The Alberta Forage Council is sponsoring a joint national conference with the Canadian Forage Council in Edmonton November 29 through December 1. The conference theme--foraging ahead in the '90s--will focus on a higher profile for the industry. Technical and practical sessions on industry issues are on the agenda. For more information, contact Jerry Sykes in Lac La Biche at 623-5218.

ZONE 5 CANOLA GROWERS MEET IN MORINVILLE NOV.15

Zone five of the Alberta Canola Growers Commission is holding its annual meeting November 15 at the Morinville Recreation Centre. In addition to the business meeting, on the agenda are new canola varieties, a canola market outlook, a report from canola productivity centres, local plot results and a bertha armyworm outlook. The noon meal ticket is $9. The meeting is scheduled to begin at 9 a.m. and run through 3 p.m. For a meal ticket reservation, call the Alberta Agriculture Morinville district office at 939-4351.

# AGRI-NEWS

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For immediate release

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Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Print Media Branch

Phone: (403) 427-2121

November 19, 1990
For immediate release

# Newest child's guide to farm safety available

More activities for the young Alberta students who use "A Child's Guide to Farm Safety" in their classrooms are featured in the 1990-91 guide.

"This year's guide is even more activity oriented," says Solomon Kyeremanteng, Alberta Agriculture's farm safety program manager. "This makes it a more involved and enjoyable learning experience for the elementary school student."

Children can also get their parents involved. Another new feature is a parents' page students take home to share with their family. "This page is near the end of the book. It has a quiz students can use on their parents to test their safety awareness, and share what the student has already learned," he says.

The guide also has a new section on tools. "Misuse or improper handling of tools is the number three cause of accidents. This new section is an additional safety check," says Kyeremanteng.

This year's guide also has a new competition for students to enter as a class. Classes who plan unique farm safety events, such as a skit or tour, can enter. The best of these events will be featured in the 1991-92 guide.

The supporting teacher's guide has also been revamped for 1990-91. "Instead of a booklet, we've made a one page guide. It's quick, basic information for the teacher, and the lower cost format has allowed us to print enough guides for every teacher, not just one per school," he says.

About 50,000 activity guides are now available to Alberta school jurisdictions. Also available, are the supporting teacher's guide and farm safety calendar. School superintendents have been sent an order form for their schools. Orders be will handled on a first-come, first-served basis.

Associate Agriculture Minister Shirley McClellan and the guide's sponsors, TransAlta Utilities and Alberta Power, will officially launch the guide later this year.

(Cont'd)

Newest child's guide to farm safety available (cont'd)

Farm safety issues are presented in the guide with assistance from winning student posters and essays from a province-wide contest. "We received a tremendous response from schools all over the province during the past year. It was the largest number of entries we've had in recent years," says Kyeremanteng.

The 30 winners whose entries are used in the guide and calendar are named to an honor roll and their photograph is included in the guide. Each student will be honored during the first two weeks of December at their schools.

Following is a list of the 1990-91 winners:

| | |
|---|---|
| Tara Stromsmoe, Grade 4 | Foremost School |
| Amanda Labrecque, Grade 1 | St. Paul Elementary School |
| Jody Boylan, Grade 4 | McGrath Elementary, Peace River |
| Nicole Snethun, Grade 2 | Lougheed School |
| Nikki Kjinserdahl, Grade 2 | A.B. Daley School, Nanton |
| Jennifer Fong, Grade 5 | Hugh Sutherland School, Carstairs |
| Emily Friesen, Grade 4 | John Davidson School, Coaldale |
| Lisa McRitchie, Grade 4 | Grande Centre Elementary School |
| Amanda Laing, Grade 5 | Fawcett School |
| David Kauffman, Grade 3 | Eaglesham School |
| Braden Austin, Kindergarten | Menno Simmons School, Cleardale |
| Melissa Easthope, Grade 5 | Elk Point Elementary School |
| Kenneth Dearden, Grade 1 | Vimy School |
| Tanis Klein, Grade 2 | Elk Point Elementary School |
| Nicole Demers, Grade 1 | Huxley School |
| Brent Moellering, Grade 3 | Camilla School, Riviere Qui Barre |
| Kristi Stucklschwaiger, Grade 5 | E.E. Oliver School, Fairview |
| Marty Fontaine, Grade 5 | Girouxville School |
| Jessica Armstrong, Grade 2 | East Rolling Hills School |
| Cameron Nelner, Grade 4 | Hanna Elementary School |
| Tricia Letwin, Grade 5 | Redwater School |
| Kim Mahe, Grade 4 | Camilla School, Riviere Qui Barre |
| Robin Willier, Grade 5 | New Sarepta Elementary School |
| Christopher Jorgenson, Grade 3 | New Brigden School |
| Mike Borland, Grade 6 | Senator Gershaw School, Bow Island |
| Kathy Osterland, Grade 4 | Falun School |
| Lita McDonald, Grade 2 | Ross Ford Elementary School, Didsbury |
| Jimmy St. Arnualt, Grade 3 | Ecole Mallaig Community School |
| Lee Dusten Linderman, Grade 4 | Viscount Torrington School, Torrington |
| Michelle Kostrub, Grade 4 | Ashmont Elementary School |
| John Hofer, Grade 6 | Leedale Colony School, Rimbey |
| Adam Potts, Grade 3 | Glendon School |

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Contact: Solomon Kyeremanteng
427-2186

November 19, 1990
For immediate release

# Dry October doesn't help soil moisture reserves

October's mostly cool, dry weather didn't recharge depleted soil moisture reserves says Alberta Agriculture's weather resource specialist.

"Depleted reserves are common across the province," says Peter Dzikowski, of the conservation and development branch. "This problem goes back to the warm, dry, frost-free conditions in August and September that provided such good harvesting weather. However, because there was so little moisture during those two months, soil moisture dwindled."

Most locations in the southern half of the province received less than 20 mm of precipitation in October, he says. Southern locations that reported 20 mm of precipitation received 20 to 90 per cent of their October normal total.

The northern half of the province recorded between 30 and 40 mm of precipitation, he says. This compares to an average range of 15 to 30 mm.

The lowest precipitation total for the month was in Empress. The 2.5 mm is 29 per cent of its average monthly total. Gleichen reported 3 mm, 27 per cent of its normal.

The wettest spots in the province were in the north. High Level recorded 68.4 mm, 465 per cent of its long term normal. Peace River's 38.4 mm of precipitation in October was 192 per cent of the its normal.

Temperatures were cooler in October than normal, ranging between one to three and half degrees Celsius below normal.

"The month started with warm temperatures and weather also warmed up during the third week, but cool arctic air covered the north through the end of the month. This brought extreme minimum temperatures, close to minus 20 degrees Celsius," says Dzikowski.

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Contact: Peter Dzikowski
422-4385

November 19, 1990
For immediate release

# Grain prices remain at low levels

The wheat price picture is still bleak for Canadian producers says an Alberta Agriculture market analyst.

"A record world wheat crop and continued export subsidy use by the Americans and European Community have combined to force international wheat prices to their lowest level in the past 10 years," says Charlie Pearson. The 1990 world wheat crop was a record 592 million tonnes, up eight per cent from 1989.

One example of export subsidies is the current $45 to $50 (US$) per tonne subsidy paid through the American export enhancement program. Eligible purchasers have purchased U.S. #2 hard red winter wheat (13 per cent protein) at $70 to $75 (US$) per tonne. In comparison, the Canadian Wheat Board (CWB) asking price for 13.5 per cent protein #1 Canadian Western Red Spring (CWRS) wheat has averaged $177 per tonne during the first quarter of the crop year, and that figure is down 19 per cent from the 1989-90 average.

Pearson says international wheat prices are expected to improve as major wheat importers begin their buying. "But, international wheat prices will have to increase substantially by the end of the crop year to prevent losses on the 1990-91 pricing pools," he notes. "The most likely situation here is for small 1990-91 final payments."

He forecasts Alberta based total payments most likely at between $113 and $115 for #1 CWRS wheat and $95 to $97 for #3 CWRS wheat. "Chances of higher prices have a decreased probability," he adds.

Price improvements for feedgrains will be limited by the availability of wheat says Pearson. "While the international feedgrain supply is tight and has the potential to improve prices, subsidized feed wheat available at a $20 to $30 per tonne discount to corn will limit these improvements."

Pearson says Alberta feedgrain producers should evaluate delivery opportunities and set target prices during the coming winter. "The local feed market will provide producers with the best prices in areas with a local livestock alternative.

(Cont'd)

"Producers who are in areas that lack good local feed markets should be prepared to use the CWB contracting program early," he adds.

Pearson forecasts Alberta based barley prices will most likely be in the $75 to $90 per tonne range in central and northern Alberta and between $90 and $105 in the Lethbridge region.

The canola market is also full of uncertainties, Pearson says. "One of the unknowns in the market is the South American oilseed crop, and another is whether U.S. soybean producers plan to plant more or less acres next year."

However, Pearson says he expects both canola basis and prices to rise this winter. "Don't be greedy," he cautions, "Based on current conditions, I would encourage producers to price out all of their 1990 canola crop by the end of March. Prices will be improving, but will likely tail off as seeding intentions for 1991 are announced because producers are likely to seed more canola with low grain prices."

Pearson also adds a long futures position provides a way to take advantage of any weather induced price rallies.

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Contact: Charlie Pearson
427-5386

November 19, 1990
For immediate release

# Federal/provincial response to bovine tuberculosis infection

Federal and provincial government departments took immediate steps to ensure the containment of an outbreak of bovine tuberculosis following confirmation of an occurrence of the disease on an Alberta game farm earlier this month.

Alberta Agriculture and Alberta Forestry, Lands and Wildlife will assist Agriculture Canada in implementing disease control measures in response to the recent identification of tuberculosis (TB) on a game farm. Agriculture Canada orders that all exposed, susceptible animals on infected farms be destroyed.

In addition, the provincial departments will help implement further precautions to ensure that any animals raised on the farm and subsequently sold or moved to other farms are traced and destroyed. Remaining animals on these farms will be quarantined and tested for tuberculosis. Any herds subsequently found to be infected will also be destroyed.

Agriculture Canada's actions in response to bovine tuberculosis infection are based on years of experience with hundreds of infected cattle herds in the past. Depopulation of infected herds has been proven the best approach to ensure the protection of human, wildlife and livestock health.

Terry Church, director of Alberta Agriculture's animal health division, says, "This response is certainly tough medicine for everyone involved, but it is absolutely necessary. We must take every precaution to ensure that this disease is contained to protect the health of animals and humans. I am pleased that our province's livestock disease monitoring system has detected this occurrence of bovine tuberculosis in the early stages."

(Cont'd)

Federal/provincial response to bovine tuberculosis infection (cont'd)

"These actions clearly demonstrate that the necessary disease control system is in place to protect the health of people, wildlife and livestock in our province," says Brent Markham, head of planning and game management for Alberta Forestry, Lands and Wildlife. The steps being taken in the case of this game farm TB infection will help ensure there is no chance the disease will come in contact with wildlife."

Alberta Forestry, Lands and Wildlife has provided Agriculture Canada officials with information on movements of elk between game farms in the province. Alberta Agriculture will be providing the federal department with veterinary expertise to assist with post mortem examination of all animals ordered destroyed.

Because a stringent disease control procedure has been followed in Canada, bovine tuberculosis has been virtually eliminated in our country. This has removed a major source of suffering for both humans and animals. At the same time, Canada's disease-free reputation among international buyers has generated significant economic benefits through the sale of livestock and livestock products world-wide.

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Contact: Dr. Terry Church
427-2166

Brent Markham
427-9503

Dr. Stan Petran
292-5818

November 19, 1990
For immediate release

# Bean tripartite payment triggered

Alberta's dry edible bean producers should receive a final cheque for their 1989 crop from the National Tripartite Stabilization Program by the end of the month.

The national program's bean committee has approved a final payment of $5.15 per metric tonne for other colored beans sold in the 1989 crop year. Bean producers received an interim payment of $40 per tonne earlier this year for beans sold between September 1, 1989 and July 31, 1990.

The total payments are the difference between the 1989 support price of $649.61 and the market price of $603.53, adjusted for the interim payment and a premium of 93 cents per tonne.

"Bean prices for all varieties were relatively high in 1989, but adverse weather conditions affected the quality of the Alberta crop," says Lloyd Andruchow, head of Alberta Agriculture's speciality crops branch. "This resulted in lower market returns nationally for the other colored bean category. Because Alberta's production is significant, about 85 per cent of the national total for this category of beans, the stabilization program is very responsive to market and growing conditions here."

All varieties of colored beans grown in Alberta--Great Northern, red Mexican, pinto and pink--are eligible for the payments. Enrolled Alberta producers total 210, representing 99 per cent of the total production in Alberta. The Alberta grower's share of the $530,000 national payout is about $460,000, based on the 10,250 tonnes of colored beans sold during the 1989 crop year.

The National Tripartite Stabilization Program was developed in 1987 to provide price support to bean producers during periods of low market returns. Producers and provincial and federal governments contribute equally to the fund through annual premiums.

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Contact: Lloyd Andruchow
422-5879

November 19, 1990
For immediate release

Agri-News briefs

MAKE YOUR MESSAGE MATTER

Alberta 4-H senior members and leaders from across the province discussed how to promote 4-H in their regions at a weekend workshop. Held at the Battle Lake Centre November 16 through 18, the weekend was a practical hands-on experience for the more than 35 delegates. "The workshop enables them to return home and design an effective program for recruiting new members and leaders to their clubs," says Penny Wilkes, of Alberta Agriculture's 4-H branch. Delegates were familiarized with basic marketing techniques and had to prepare news releases, television commercials, radio spots and posters. Wilkes, and David Schneider, supervisor of marketing and programming for Edmonton's Muttart Conservatory, were two of the workshop's key resource people. The workshop was sponsored by Norcen Energy/Superior Propane Limited. Company representative Don Laczo attended the workshop and presented delegates with certificates. For more information, contact Wilkes in Edmonton at 427-2541.

TAPE SERIES ON BUILDING FARM FAMILIES

Successful farmers and ranchers are discovering the importance of the human side of agriculture. In a series of four audio cassette tapes--"Building effective farm families in the 1990s" (329-2)--human resource consultant David Irvine examines the essentials of building effective family relationships in a modern agricultural setting. Among concepts discussed are team building skills, open communications, trust and acceptance, and conflict management. The series of four tapes is available for loan through Alberta Agriculture's Film Library. For loan information write the Film Library at 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6.

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# AGRI-NEWS

November 26, 1990

For immediate release

CANADIANA
DEC 12 1990

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Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Print Media Branch

Phone: (403) 427-2121

November 26, 1990
For immediate release

# Soil moisture deficiencies across province

Sampling of Alberta fields before freeze-up show soil moisture deficiencies throughout the entire province says Alberta Agriculture's soil moisture specialist.

"Less than 10 per cent of the agricultural area in the province has adequate soil moisture at this time," says Allan Howard of the conservation and development branch.

"Serious, or very low, soil moisture deficiencies occur throughout most of the eastern half of the province, the central Peace River region and an area of west central Alberta between Rocky Mountain House and Edson," he says. He adds, the only areas not lacking soil moisture are the Swan Hills area and between Fort Saskatchewan and Mundare. (See attached fall soil moisture map.)

"Dry soils in Alberta are part of Prairie-wide dry conditions evident this fall," says Howard. Generally good soil moisture levels at seeding were depleted by crop demand. Low precipitation through the summer and a particularly dry September didn't replace moisture removed from the soil.

"Precipitation during October wet the surface, but produced no significant improvement in soil moisture levels," he notes.

The provincial fall soil moisture map shows soil moisture conditions at November 1. As ground freeze-up is generally any time after this date, the map is considered the last picture of conditions across the province prior to winter. The map is based on actual sampling of stubble fields between October 1 and 26. Analysis of rainfall date and discussions with Alberta Agriculture regional and district staff provided additional information on local variability and changes in moisture levels between sampling dates and November 1.

Howard says between November 1 and spring seeding soil moisture levels can increase between 20 and 40 per cent with overwinter precipitation, but less than half of Alberta's annual precipitation falls between November 1 and April 30.

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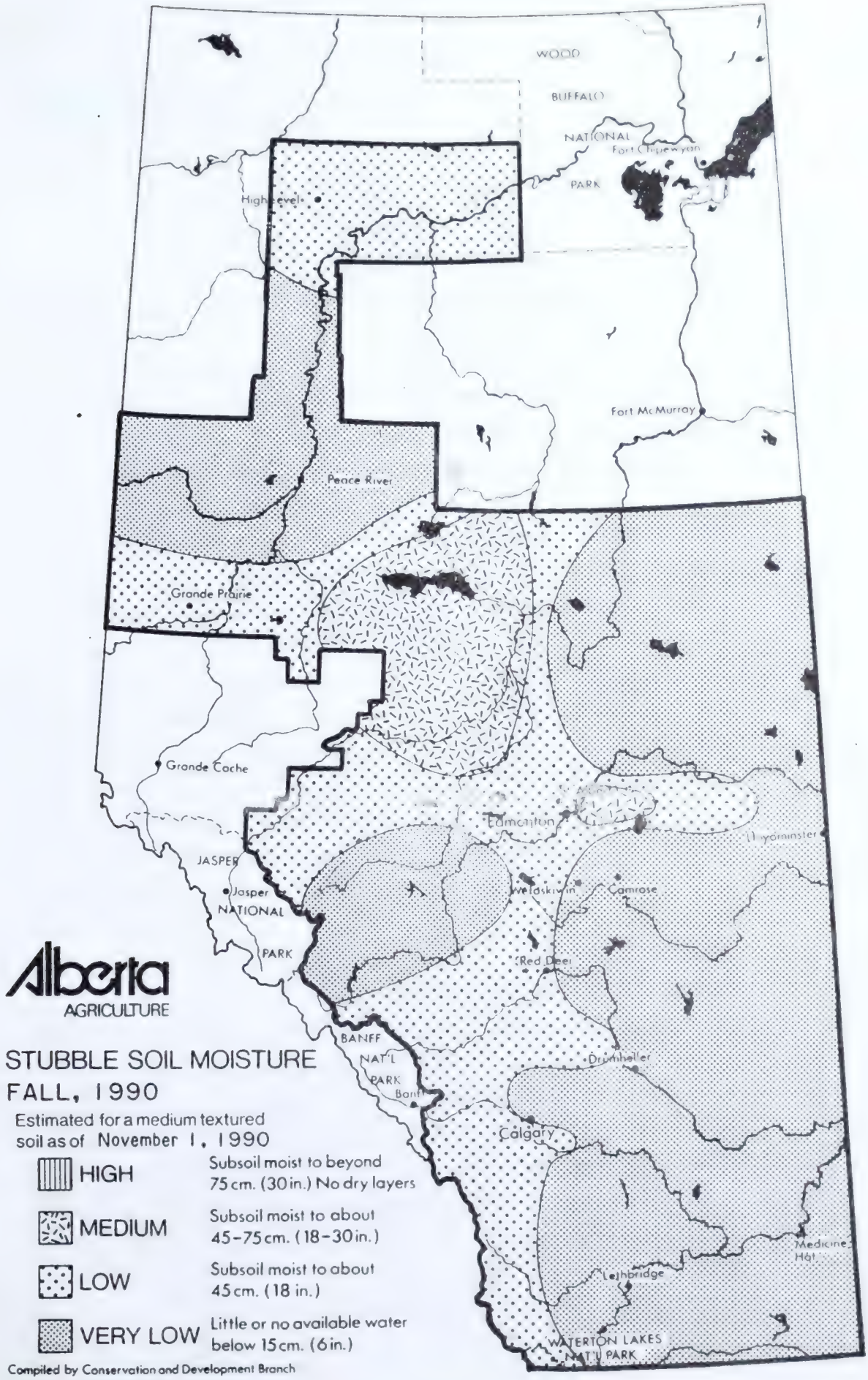
Contact: Allan Howard
381-5861




Alberta
AGRICULTURE

# STUBBLE SOIL MOISTURE
## FALL, 1990

Estimated for a medium textured soil as of November 1, 1990

| | |
|---|---|
| HIGH | Subsoil moist to beyond 75 cm. (30 in.) No dry layers |
| MEDIUM | Subsoil moist to about 45–75 cm. (18–30 in.) |
| LOW | Subsoil moist to about 45 cm. (18 in.) |
| VERY LOW | Little or no available water below 15 cm. (6 in.) |

Compiled by Conservation and Development Branch

November 26, 1990
For immediate release

New home study course focuses on cattle nutrition

A new Alberta Agriculture home study course can help cattle producers improve their profits through a better understanding of cattle nutrition.

"The 'Cattle Nutrition' course provides its students with a good understanding of nutritional concepts for better feeding. Because feed is a major input cost in cattle production, effectively managing its costs increases production efficiency and business profits," says Faye Douglas-Phillips, home study co-ordinator.

Developed in co-operation with the animal nutrition section of the beef cattle and sheep branch, the course covers what is in a feed, and how forage additives, commercial feeds, urea, supplements and straw ammoniation fit into feeding programs and how they affect an animal's performance. Environmental effects on nutrient needs and required major and trace minerals for cattle rations are also discussed.

"This course also focuses on how to develop a total feeding program for your herd," says Douglas-Phillips. Three key components of the home study make it easy to transfer course concepts directly to the livestock operation. "Free feed testing of home-grown forage and grain samples provide personalized data to use while working through the course," she says.

As well, step-by-step worksheets guide the student through calculating rations for beef or dairy operations. By submitting ration information sheets provided in the course, the producer-student also has an opportunity to receive a herd feeding program.

A computer software program Cowbytes, is also available for balancing or checking beef rations.

"Like all Alberta Agriculture home study courses, the cattle nutrition course is designed so you can work through it at your own pace," she says.

(Cont'd)

The $45 course is packaged in a three ring binder and isn't subject to GST if ordered before December 31. After January 1, 1991 each course will cost $48.15. Write and make cheques payable to the Rural Education Development Association (REDA) at 14815-119 Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta, T5L 2N9.

Application forms are also available from Alberta Agriculture district offices or the home study program in Edmonton at 427-2404.

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Contact: Faye Douglas-Phillips
427-2404

November 26, 1990
For immediate release

Crow Benefit change and grain transportation

Efforts to improve the efficiency of Western Canada's grain transportation and handling system must be accompanied by changes in the method of paying the Crow Benefit say Alberta's agriculture ministers.

Agriculture Minister Ernie Isley and Associate Agriculture Minister Shirley McClellan stress the need to link implementation of cost reductions and efficiencies in the grain handling and transportation network with an effective plan to change payment of the Crow. "It is absolutely essential to the future health of our agriculture industry that changes in the two areas be made together," says Isley.

The ministers note a federal buy out of the Crow Benefit accompanied by changes to the Western Grain Transportation Act rate structure, as proposed in Alberta Agriculture's Freedom to Choose paper, would raise farm revenue while reducing transportation costs. Such a proposal could raise Prairie farm revenue by an average of $695 million per year.

"Without gains in system efficiencies," says Isley, "Western Canadian grain farmers would not be able to improve their revenues. But our studies show that the cash stream provided by a Crow Benefit bond buy out plan, combined with savings from increased efficiency in the grain handling and transportation system, could raise Prairie grain revenue by about $100 million per year."

The ministers point out that some improvements in the transport and handling system could be achieved without a change in the method of payment. Without such a change, however, the real cost of the system would continue to be hidden from farmers. The introduction of system efficiencies would be greatly slowed, and would be directed by the industry, not by farmers.

(Cont'd)

In addition, if transport costs were reduced without a change in the method of payment, the current distortion in domestic prices for grain would increase. This would raise costs Prairie-wide for the livestock industries and other value adding sectors, discourage development and inhibit further diversification of the Western Canadian economy.

"Alberta's Freedom to Choose proposal offers a means of implementing both a federal buy out of the Crow Benefit and a strategy for improving the grain transportation rate structure. These changes taken together would provide tremendous benefits to Western Canada's agriculture industry," says McClellan.

The changes to the Western Grain Transportation Act rate structure advocated in Freedom to Choose would reduce rates paid by farmers who deliver their grain to efficient, high through-put delivery points and increase rates on low-volume branch lines. This would provide a price signal to farmers that would encourage a move toward a more efficient and market responsive grain handling and transportation system.

"Right now," says Isley, "there is little incentive for the grain and rail companies to introduce cost saving measures, and no way for farmers to encourage them to. This is despite the fact that producers are paying a large portion of the costs of the system. If the rate structure were changed and farmers had the Crow Benefit in their own pockets, they could vote with their dollars for greater efficiency and reduced costs."

"Our studies have clearly demonstrated that implementation of the Freedom to Choose Crow proposal would raise farm revenue and encourage diversification in farms across Western Canada," says McClellan. "We encourage all stakeholders in the agriculture industry to examine this proposal, and to come forward with their comments and suggestions."

For more information, call the "Freedom to Choose Hotline", toll-free at 1-800-661-0056. The line is open weekdays from 8:15 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (MST).

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Contact: Cliff Weber
427-0364

Gordon Herrington
427-2417

November 26, 1990
For immediate release

# Alberta forage seed commission takes shape

Over the next few months Alberta's forage seed producers and the seed trade will have an opportunity to have their say and learn more about a proposed Alberta Forage Seed Commission.

For more than a year the Alberta Forage Seed Council has been investigating a commission's feasibility. The result is a 30 page draft business plan for an Alberta Forage Seed Commission.

The council has also worked on legal text for a marketing plan and regulations required for a commission by the Marketing of Agricultural Products Act. This legislation enables producer commissions to collect check-offs to fund their activities. Plans are for a one per cent check-off from forage seed sales with an August 1, 1991 implementation date.

The council has already held some meetings to discuss the draft commission plan and more are scheduled, says Marvin Nakonechny, the council's secretary manager. Two meetings are being held today (November 26), one in the afternoon in Falher and the other in the evening in Grande Prairie. Two more follow on November 27, in the afternoon in Manning and in Fairview in the evening. Scheduled December meetings are a day session in Brooks on December 4 and an afternoon meeting in St. Paul on December 10. More meetings will be held in the new year.

Nakonechny says the growing importance of the industry has spurred formation of a commission. "It's been apparent for some time that an Alberta producer organization is needed to represent and work on behalf of the Alberta forage seed industry. Alberta is Canada's largest forage seed producer. From the export dollars it generates, to its relationship with other agricultural sectors, it's an important economic force."

(Cont'd)

Alberta producers harvest over 30 million pounds, or over half of the total grasses and legume seed produced annually in Canada. Forage seed production involves more than 20 seed companies that clean and or sell the seed. As well, the forage seed industry supports secondary activities in cleaning, bagging, trucking, warehousing and sales.

In 1988, a peak year for prices, Alberta farm cash receipts from forage seeds were more than $40 million. "While production, farm cash receipt and prices vary substantially, exports have typically been around the $30 million mark annually," says Garry Benoit, manager of the commodity development section in Alberta Agriculture's agri-food and processing development branch.

As well as a source of income for about 2,000 forage seed growers, the industry is also linked to other agricultural sectors. "One direct link is to leaf cutter bees. A strong forage seed sector is also complimentary to Alberta's livestock sector that requires large quantities of forages," says Benoit, who is also an Alberta Forage Seed Council member.

"To keep the industry strong, a number of areas require ongoing attention. That's the role the commission can play in crop development, technology transfer, marketing and as a representative for the industry on policy issues," says Nakonechy.

"We're encouraging forage seed producers and people in the seed trade to attend our upcoming meetings. They're a good opportunity to get familiar with the proposal and to provide input for a commission that will meet the needs of all of the Alberta forage seed industry," he adds.

Copies of the draft business plan and draft legal documents for the commission are available from the Alberta Forage Seed Council office at 304, 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6.

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Contact: Marvin Nakonechny
427-5357

Garry Benoit
427-7366

Bob Gartley, council chairman
359-3952

November 26, 1990
For immediate release

# New 4-H scholarship for 1991

Central Guaranty Trust in Calgary has established a new 4-H scholarship to be awarded for the first time in the fall of 1991.

The Don Matthews Scholarship recognizes the Canadian Agricultural Hall of Fame member's many contributions to 4-H and his community. The scholarship will be awarded to past or present 4-H members who display leadership, community responsibility and communication skills. One scholarship of a minimum $200 will be awarded annually to a student attending any accredited post-secondary institution.

Leader of the Springbank 4-H Beef Club from 1952 to 1962, Matthews represented the Canadian Aberdeen-Angus Association on the Canadian 4-H Council. From 1962 to 1974 he was a director of the council and served as its president in 1972. Matthews was a charter trustee of the Canadian 4-H Foundation, serving from 1969 to 1980, and was the 1979-80 president.

Active in many cattle industry associations, Matthews served as president of the Alberta Aberdeen-Angus Association, Canadian Aberdeen-Angus Association, Canadian Limousin Association and the Canadian Joint Beef Breeds Association. Chairman of the Alberta Cattle Commission in 1976 and 1977, Matthews has been a director of the Canadian Cattlemen's Association since 1970. The Canadian Agriculture Hall of Fame honored Don Matthews in 1984. Currently, Matthews is chairman of the Canadian Beef Breeds Council and past president of the Calgary Exhibition and Stampede.

Matthews has been a member of the Central Guaranty Trust Advisory Board in Calgary for over 30 years. He was also a 14-year director of Canadian Pacific between 1975 and 1989.

The Don Matthews Scholarship is sponsored and administered by Central Guaranty Trust.

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Contact: Val Runyon
422-4444

## EDITOR'S NOTE

This is the first article in a seven-part series on farm business management planning prepared by Alberta Agriculture farm business management economist, Craig Edwards.

The series deals with some of the factors farmers and farm managers should consider in developing their own farm business management plans.

Ideally, the series should run sequentially from part one to seven, but if space or scheduling becomes a problem, each article can stand alone. If not used as a series, some articles may require minor editing.

The articles vary in length with part one the longest at about 700 words (about 18 column inches). Most of the other installments are about 300 words each (about eight column inches).

Topics to be covered over the seven weeks are:

Part 1 - Farm planning is a creative process

Part 2 - Procedures for planning

Part 3 - Economic principles used in farm planning

Part 4 - Making production decisions

Part 5 - Fertilizer economics

Part 6 - It's not too early for crop planning

Part 7 - Getting more bang from your bucks

November 26, 1990
For immediate release

Farm business planning is creative process
(First in a series)

Although it may sound simple, farm planning is really the cornerstone of making any farm or ranch operation a success says a farm management economist with Alberta Agriculture.

"Planning is the foundation for all important farming activities," says Craig Edwards, of the farm business management branch in Olds. "And yet, many people don't appreciate what planning can do for them.

"Many farmers are not aware of the study or discipline of farm business management, so they don't realize that important principles, tools and methods are available to help them make choices and decisions with the highest probability of success."

The specialist says farm planning primarily involves making choices and decisions, or selecting the most profitable alternative from all considered alternatives. And, most farm businesses could benefit from better farm planning, he says. The best way for farmers to learn how to plan is to participate in a course such as Gear Up Advantage, he adds. Farmers should check with their nearest Alberta Agriculture district office to register for the course. Another way to learn planning methods is to study a good farm management text book or even a business text.

Planning is the most basic management function as it includes deciding on a course of action and then taking action, or doing what was planned. This requires acquiring and organizing the necessary resources, including financing and human resources, to put the plan into operation. It also includes organizing resources with the aim of producing crops, livestock and livestock products that will have the highest probability of maximizing profits, if that is the farmer's goal.

"Using recommended planning tools and methods is a continuous process, not something to do on a stormy day and then forget. The plan itself changes as the manager/planner gets new information from continuous observation and analysis as the plan is implemented.

(Cont'd)

"The important ingredient is not the 'PLAN', but the planning process--informed thinking and decision making using established economic principles. The planning process provides a systematic and organized procedure that simplifies making choices and decisions," Edwards says. Even the best planning methods skillfully applied can't guarantee success, he adds, but planning improves the probability of achieving success.

Planning should be done by everyone affected by the plan, not just the manager. "On the family farm all the members and employees take part and contribute to planning with benefit to the attitude, behaviour and understanding of the group," says Edwards. "This presents an opportunity to learn the planning process from the skills of the leader, or manager, for better management in the future. Management skills as well as production skills can be learned from experienced members of the farm family."

The specialist says planning is not a dull, stodgy exercise in futility, but an important and lively part of management. "At its best, it requires the highest degree of creativity from the manager and other contributors to the process. Innovative and entrepreneurial skills can contribute by discovery of opportunities which can be included in the alternatives considered for the farm business."

Farmers unable to attend a course can send for two new publications useful in planning. They are "Gauge: A Year End Financial Package" and "Farm Financial Planning Worksheets", a planning guide for the next year.

Farmers wanting these farm planning packages should contact Edwards by writing the Farm Business Management Branch, Box 2000, Olds, Alberta, TOM 1P0 or calling 556-4248.

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Contact: Craig Edwards
556-4248

November 26, 1990
For immediate release

# Alberta Agriculture Appointments

## NEW DISTRICT AGRICULTURIST IN BONNYVILLE

Jay Byer is the new Alberta Agriculture district agriculturist in Bonnyville. Byer, who has been a district agriculturist in Wetaskiwin and Ponoka, says, "A new district, with all its challenges and opportunities, is always exciting. Bonnyville, an entirely new region for me, will present several new programming and learning possibilities. I'm sure I will learn as many new ideas from northeastern farmers as I have from producers in central and north central Alberta." Byer has also worked as a poultry specialist and a field crops research technician while with Alberta Agriculture. He has also worked in the private sector in the feed industry in central Alberta. Raised on a mixed farm in the Westlock area, he attended the University of Alberta and graduated with a BSc in agriculture in 1980. Byer can be contacted in Bonnyville at 826-3388.

## NEW VERMILION DHE "RECYCLED"

Sharon Stredwick was Vermilion's district home economist between 1968 and 1973 and has rejoined the department in the same position. "I've been introduced as a 'recycled' home economist," she says. Originally from a mixed farm near Davidson, Saskatchewan, Stredwick attended the University of Saskatchewan. She graduated with a BSc in home economics in 1968. As a district home economist, Stredwick is a resource person for farm families in a number of areas including financial management, food and nutrition and leadership development. She also plans educational programs in the same broad range of topic areas. Stredwick can be contacted in Vermilion at 853-8101.

## WETASKIWIN HAS NEW DISTRICT AGRICULTURIST

After nine enjoyable years as Bonnyville's district agriculturist, Ron Hockridge has moved on to take up the same duties for Alberta

(Cont'd)

Alberta Agriculture appointments (cont'd)

WETASKIWIN HAS NEW DISTRICT AGRICULTURIST (cont'd)

Agriculture in Wetaskiwin. "I'm looking forward to the changes and challenges of a new area of the province," he says. Hockridge originally joined the department as a farm training specialist working out of Fairview. He moved to Lacombe a year and half later to train as a district agriculturist. From Ontario, Hockridge grew up on a mixed farm west of Sudbury. He received a diploma in agriculture from a college in Kemptville and then attended McGill University's Macdonald College graduating with a BSc in agriculture in 1971. Hockridge can be contacted in Wetaskiwin at 352-1240.

FOOD SCIENTIST APPOINTED IN BROOKS

Janet Panford is the new food scientist at the Alberta Special Crops and Horticultural Research Center in Brooks. Panford's new position has three primary responsibilities. They are: the center's food processing and quality evaluation program; extension services to food processors in the region; and, applied research. Controlled atmosphere and modified atmosphere packaging of horticultural products is an area of particular interest to Panford. "I'm looking forward to working with both the large and small food processors in the province," she says. Panford joins Alberta Agriculture from the Canadian Grain Commission in Winnipeg where she'd worked in the grain research laboratory division for 14 years. Most recently she was head of the analytical chemistry services section. Though born in Ghana, Winnipeg has been home for Panford for the last 21 years. She holds BSA and MSc degrees from the University of Manitoba and a PhD from the University of Guelph. Panford is a member of the Canadian Institute of Food Science and Technology, the American Association of Cereal Chemists and the American Oil Chemists Society. Dr. Panford can be reached in Brooks at 362-3391.

November 26, 1990
For immediate release

Agri-News briefs

FAVORITE RECIPES CELEBRATE 4-H 75TH

"4-H Favorites", a 368-page cookbook compiled to help celebrate 4-H's 75th anniversary in Alberta, is now available. Over 1000 recipes were submitted by 4-H members, leaders, parents, sponsors and friends of 4-H. The Alberta 4-H program is celebrating its 75th anniversary in 1992. The cookbook can be purchased through 4-H clubs or by sending a cheque or money order, made payable to Alberta 4-H 75th Anniversary Committee, for $15 plus $3 for postage and handling to the committee, care of Benita Fossen, Box 96, Cadogan, Alberta, T0B 0T0. For more information about the cookbook or the 75th anniversary, contact Margaret Davies in Rocky Mountain House at 729-2473 or Mahlon Weir at Alberta Agriculture's 4-H branch in Edmonton at 422-4444.

FORAGE SEED COUNCIL MANDATE RENEWED

A special council to provide leadership in establishing a producer/industry organization for the forage seed industry in Alberta will continue its mandate through March 1992. Agriculture Minister Ernie Isley reappointed several members of the council earlier this year, and recently filled out the council membership with new appointments. Bob Gartly of Eaglesham is the council's chairman. Producer members include: Ruth Jenson, Spring Coulee; Henry Dechant, Fairview; Michael Radzick, Hines Creek; Albert Schatzke, Stony Plain; and, Tom Seaborn, Rocky Mountain House. Other members are: John Dechant, Manning, appointed by the Alberta Branch of the Canadian Seed Trade Association; Dave Ingledew (council vice-chairman), of Prairie Seed Ltd. in Edmonton, appointed by the Canadian Seed Trade Association; Larry Weins, Rosemary, appointed by the Alberta Alfalfa Seed Producers Association; Daphne Fairey, Agriculture Canada, Beaverlodge; Garry Benoit, Alberta Agriculture marketing representative; Bill Witbeck, Alberta Agriculture plant industry representative; Marvin Nakonechny.

(Cont'd)

FORAGE SEED COUNCIL MANDATE RENEWED (cont'd)

secretary/manager; Jack Dobb (ex-officio), liaison with British Columbia; and, Al Dooley (ex-officio), Alberta Agriculture market analysis branch. Its mandate includes promotion of the grass and legume seed industry development and co-ordination and liaison between growers, processors, merchants and government. The council has been actively working towards establishing a forage seed commission. For more information contact Marvin Nakonechny, secretary/manager at 427-5357 or Bob Gartley, council chairman at 359-3952.

FARMFAIR LIVESTOCK SHOWCASE PLUS

Over 5,000 animals from across Canada and several U.S. points were in Edmonton for competition in 36 shows or sold at one of 13 auction sales during Edmonton Northlands Farmfair '90. Almost $900,000 changed hands during the auction sales of purebred livestock including swine, sheep, quarter horses, dairy and beef cattle. Top price for an individual animal was $12,000 for an Angus bull calf at the "superstar" sale. Angus breeders also recorded the highest per lot average of $2,950. The auction ring wasn't the only sales activity. Northlands and Alberta Agriculture officials estimate total sales of live animals, semen and embryos initiated or finalized at Farmfair could reach well into the tens of millions of dollars. Farmfair's International Lounge was also a busy place with twice as many visitors as 1989. The visitor register showed representation from almost all Canadian provinces, 20 American states, Europe, South America, Asia and Australia. Other highlights of Farmfair '90 were: provincial draft horse pulling championships, junior farmer competitions, professional sheep shearing, a western art show and sale, provincial 4-H judging competition, a "kids co-op" day, farmers' market and exotic poultry and rabbit show.

# AGRI-NEWS

CANADIANA

DEC 2 8 1990

December 3, 1990

For immediate release

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Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Print Media Branch

Phone: (403) 427-2121

December 3, 1990
For immediate release

# Reduce the risk of calf scours now

A recent study published in the Canadian Journal of Veterinary Research has strengthened the concept good management is a key element in preventing calf scours says an Alberta Agriculture veterinarian.

"The conclusions of Dr. Schumann's study reinforce how important good herd management is to prevent this disease," says Casey Schipper, of the animal health division.

The study, directed by Fritz Schumann of the Western College of Veterinary Medicine, compared two groups of Alberta farms with beef cattle herds of 40 or more cows. One half of the farms had reported calf death losses due to diarrhea in calves less than one month old at four per cent or greater. The second group of farms had losses of less than two per cent.

A number of management factors were compared in the study. These included herd size, heifer percentage in the herd, time and length of calving season, wintering and calving groups, shelters, drainage, colostrum intake, buying replacement calves and scours vaccination.

It was found calf scours were significantly related to the number of first calf heifers in the herd and the length of the calving season--the longer the season, the more calves likely to die. The calving and nursing area available to each cow and wet ground conditions were strongly associated with calf death losses. Calves born to cows suffered less from scours than those born to heifers. Wintering and calving cows and heifers together on the same ground increased the risk of losing calves due to calf scours by three to four times.

"These results aren't surprising," says Schipper. "Most producers already known that common sense management is essential for good calf survival. This research has really confirmed the obvious."

(Cont'd)

Reduce the risk of calf scours now (cont'd)

Adequate colostrum intake tended to protect calves from dying of scours, he notes. On the other hand, calf scour vaccines didn't help producers. Calf death losses on farms where cows had been given calf scours vaccines were the same as those on farms where cows hadn't been vaccinated. As well, vitamin supplements given to calves after birth appeared to have limited benefits.

"The bottom line is producers can certainly benefit from the management recommendations the University of Saskatchewan researchers came up with," says Schipper.

Producers can help themselves by using good wintering cow rations to ensure good colostrum and milk production. They should supplement the ration with trace mineralized salts containing selenium to encourage the birth of strong, healthy, disease resistant calves.

Separate wintering and calving grounds for cows and heifers should be provided. Calving grounds should be in areas with good shelter, good drainage, bedding and enough space to prevent crowding. Also, cows and calves should be assured plenty of drinking water.

If scours break out, then use isolation pens to keep sick calves away from healthy ones for as long as is necessary. Producers are advised to keep good treatment records on sick calves to evaluate the effectiveness of the management and any medication they use.

Finally, livestock farmers should consult with a local veterinarian or regional livestock specialist for advice on new developments in calf scours treatment and disease prevention through good management.

The 54 randomly selected herds used in the study were in an area bounded by Peace River in the north, Red Deer in the west, Wainwright in the east and Brooks in the south.

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Contact: Dr. Casey Schipper
422-4844

December 3, 1990
For immediate release

# No fat advantage in lean broiled ground beef

Consumers pay extra for leanness in ground beef, but a recent study has shown little difference in fat content when the meat is broiled.

Canadian shoppers can buy extra lean, lean, medium and regular ground beef with maximum amounts of 10, 17, 23 and 30 per cent fat, respectively. The latter three categories are included in the regulations of the national Food and Drug Act. Currently extra lean isn't in the regulations.

"These choices are offered to consumers concerned about their fat intake from a very popular meat choice," says Aileen Whitmore, Alberta Agriculture food and nutrition specialist. "Ground beef's popularity stems from its cost, versatility and convenience. But, its fat content has been a big concern to a lot of people and over the last few years consumers have been able to buy increasingly lean ground beef."

The fat advantage in the leaner grinds might be nonexistent when the ground beef is broiled. Recent studies in Canada and the United States showed the fat content of broiled samples, except for the extra lean, is about the same, says Whitmore.

Similar fat levels were measured from broiled ground beef patties made from regular, medium and lean grinds. The cooked yield of the patties were also similar. Raw 120 g patties weighed 73 g (regular) and 74 g (medium) after broiling. The lean ground beef patty was the lightest, at 71 g, probably due to decreased moisture and fat levels, says Whitmore.

"Consumers will have to make individual decisions about spending more money for medium or lean ground beef for a relatively small fat saving," says Whitmore.

She adds, "Studies still need to be done in relation to other methods of cooking ground meat such as frying, and whether the fat advantage does or doesn't hold true when the meat is cooked by different methods."

(Cont'd)

No fat advantage in lean broiled ground beef (cont'd)

Whitmore also notes ground beef is now available at some retailers in one, three and five pound chubs in opaque vacuum packages. The product has an extended shelf life of 14 days at refrigerator temperature.

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Contact: Aileen Whitmore
427-2412

December 3, 1990
For immediate release

Three Albertans in top 10 at international judging competition

Eight Alberta 4-Hers competed at a multi-species livestock judging event in Regina. From left to right are: Greg Hawkwood, coach; Jason Bruketa, Tim Zeigler, Angel Roberts, Scott Swanek, Stacey Sellers, Chris Solick, Laura James, Michele Porter and team coach Yvonne Love, north east regional 4-H specialist.

Alberta's 4-H judging team had three members place in the top 10 at the recent international 4-H livestock judging seminar at the Canadian Western Agribition in Regina.

Michele Porter, 18, of Duffield and the Spruce Grove Beef Club was sixth overall. Along the way, Porter was first in the horse class and second in oral reasons.

Following Porter in seventh place in the aggregate was Laura James, 16, a member of the Foothills Sheep and Okotoks Beef Clubs. East Lacombe Beef Club member Chris Solick, 17, was ninth in the overall competition. Solick placed fifth in the horse class.

(Cont'd)

Three Albertans in top 10 at international judging competition (cont'd)

Team members placed well in the individual classes. Angel Roberts, 21, of Barrhead's Lone Star Multi Club was first in the beef class. Stacy Sellers, 17, was third in the beef class. Sellers, of Innisfree, is a member of the Birch Lake Bits and Spurs.

Millarville Stockland's Jason Bruketa, 17, took top spot in oral reasons.

Tim Zeigler, 16, of Vegreville Multi, was second in the horse class.

"Our team carried on a tradition of excellence at the Agribition competition," says Henry Wiegman, provincial 4-H agriculture specialist.

Team coaches were Yvonne Love, north east regional 4-H specialist, and Greg Hawkwood, a 4-H leader from Cochrane.

Alberta's judging team competed against teams from across Canada as well as Montana. They judged swine, sheep, dairy cattle, beef cattle and horse classes presenting written and oral reasons.

Team members earned their trips during a recent provincial judging competition held during Farmfair '90 in Edmonton. The Alberta team's trip was sponsored by Uniblok Canada, a division of Superior Feeds, in Rockyford.

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Contact: Henry Wiegman
427-2541

December 3, 1990
For immediate release

# Controlling water erosion with crop residues

Crop residue management is an important water erosion control technique says an Alberta Agriculture regional soil conservation co-ordinator.

"Grassing waterways gets most of the attention in water erosion control, but it's by no means the only, nor the most important method available," says Wilf Cody. "As a matter of fact, gully erosion might not be the most serious form of erosion we face."

Rill erosion isn't as spectacular and is far easier to hide or ignore. It's also potentially far more devastating in terms of lost soil and productivity. Sheet erosion, too, can result in movement of large quantities of soil down a slope. Breaking down of granular particles by raindrops can cause considerably more harm in terms of lost productivity than the actual loss of soil.

"This isn't to say grassing waterways is unimportant, but rather that we need to be aware of and employ other techniques as well. Some of these techniques appear to lack the 'romance' of surveying, moving earth and geotextiles that are involved in grassed waterways. These other techniques include mundane things like cultivating across the slope and residue management," he says.

Regardless of the type of water erosion a farmer wants to control, the key is providing protection to the soil surface. In the case of gully erosion, perennial grass provides protection after the water run has been properly shaped and stabilized.

Crop residues provide surface protection from rill, sheet and raindrop erosion. "So, crop residue management is the first and foremost soil conservation technique farmers should use on annually cropped land," he says.

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Contact: Wilf Cody
674-8264

December 3, 1990
For immediate release

Procedures for planning
(Second in a series)

Running a farm without some kind of planning is like trying to dance in snowshoes says an Alberta Agriculture farm business management economist.

"It lacks style, requires extra work and no one, including yourself, is sure of the next step," says Craig Edwards, of the farm business management branch in Olds.

Planning often seems to be one of those abstract terms that falls into that nice-but-not-necessary category, he says. "But for a farmer, planning is just as vital as knowing how grain grows or how to put pounds on a calf."

Farm planning involves setting goals and then developing a plan to achieve those goals. If there isn't a plan of some kind, then farmers wouldn't accomplish much. "With a lot of random stop-and-go decisions, farming operations would be less productive," he says.

"Most farmers, and farm families, have a plan or plans of some kind, even though they don't write them on paper. Although created and the plan exists in the farmer's mind, a plan is far more useful when written on paper," says the specialist.

When the plan is written out, farmers and family, partners and others concerned with the operation have an opportunity to understand and contribute to the planning procedure.

"A written plan is an outline or sketch of the organization of the available resources and their use in the future. It can be very simple and even skimpy. Ideally, it should be detailed enough to include operating costs and returns for each enterprise on the farm. Developed as a whole farm budget, the plan could be used as a map for the organization and operation of the physical and financial farm resources," Edwards says.

(Cont'd)

Procedures in planning (cont'd)

Alberta farmers wanting to learn more about farm planning can attend courses such as the Alberta Agriculture Gear Up Advantage program. Registration information is available from Alberta Agriculture district offices. District staff and regional economists can also provide assistance to farmers interested in farm planning.

As well, the farm business management branch has developed two publications as a planning package. One is called "Gauge: A Year End 'Do It Yourself' Financial Package" and the other is "Farm Financial Planning Worksheets" (FFPW). These publications may be available at Alberta Agriculture district offices.

Publication requests can be made by writing Edwards at, Farm Business Management Branch, Box 2000, Olds, Alberta, T0M 1P0 or calling 556-4248.

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Contact: Craig Edwards
556-4248

December 3, 1990
For immediate release

Agri-News briefs

FUTURE ALBERTA CHEFS HONOURED

Nine of Alberta's most talented students in the food service industry were recently awarded $500 scholarships at the the annual Stan Ballard Endowment luncheon in Calgary. The winners were Tanja Lademan, Warren Rennick, Elizabeth Kohler, Murray Leib, Susan Monasmith, Theresa Kerbis, Tara White and Leonard Lavigne. The awards were presented by Paul Murphy, president and chief executive officer of the Alberta Food Processors Association (AFPA); Bill Brick, chairman of the AFPA board; and, Stan Ballard. AFPA established the Stan Ballard Endowment Scholarship Fund to assist young Albertans in achieving their career goals in the food service industry. It also honors contributions Ballard has made in Alberta's food service industry as a founding AFPA member. Ballard retired from Burns Foods Ltd. in 1986 after 41 years of service. To be eligible for the award, students must be Alberta residents, Canadian citizens and enrolled in the second year of a two-year professional cooking program in Alberta. For more information, contact Melody Pashko at the AFPA in Edmonton at 453-3587.

POTATO INDUSTRY MAKES SEED RESOLUTION

Alberta's potato industry resolved to plant only certified or better seed in the province at a recent industry conference in Lethbridge. About 300 people attended the conference. At the meeting, the Alberta Potato Marketing Board released 1990 production figures. One hundred and thirty growers raised 28,300 acres of potatoes. Acreage increased by 16 per cent. Acreage was divided into 18 per cent seed potatoes, 25 per cent table, 51 per cent for processing and six per cent table/process and table/seed. For more information, contact Jan Brown in Calgary at 291-2430.

FRESH TREE, WATER KEYS TO CHRISTMAS TREE CARE

Making your Christmas tree last the holiday season starts with

(Cont'd)

Agri-News briefs (cont'd)

FRESH TREE, WATER KEYS TO CHRISTMAS TREE CARE (cont'd)
buying a fresh tree says an Alberta Agriculture horticulturist. Pam North advises running fingers over the branches to make sure needles aren't brittle. If the tree is shaken lightly, only a few needles will fall from a fresh tree. Type of tree makes a difference to how long it will last. Scots or Scotch pine are the most resistant to drying and dropping needles. White pine, Douglas fir and balsam fir also retain needles well. Spruce shed their needles more quickly. Tree care and location in the house also play a role in tree freshness. "When you get your tree home, cut off three centimetres from the base of the trunk. This removes resin that can clog water conducting tissues and prevent water absorption," she says. The tree should be placed in water as soon as possible. Tree stands should hold about a litre of water and be kept full and not allowed to dry out. The warmer and drier the house, the more moisture a tree will lose. Larger trees use more water. Don't put trees near or over a heat register. For more information, contact North at the Alberta Tree Nursery and Horticultural Centre in Edmonton at 422-1789.

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# Coming Agricultural Events

**Alberta Cattle Commission annual general meeting**
Marlborough Inn
Calgary ..... December 3-5
Joanne Lemke – 275-4400 – Calgary

**Christian Farmers Federation of Alberta annual convention**
Santa Maria Geretti Community Centre
Edmonton ..... December 5-6
Paul Eastwood – 428-6981 – Edmonton

**Canola marketing and production seminars**
Legion Hall, Rycroft ..... December 5
Falher arena, Falher ..... December 6
Kent MacDonald – 864-3597 – Spirit River

**Alberta Pulse Growers Commission annual meeting**
Malborough Inn
Calgary ..... December 5-7
Jan Roth – 327-0626 – Lethbridge

**Discover the Opportunities'90**
Exhibition Centre
Prince Albert, Saskatchewan ..... December 6
Barry Swanson – (306)953-2770 – Prince Albert, Saskatchewan

**Western Stock Growers' Association annual convention and short course**
Kananaskis Lodge
Kananaskis Village ..... December 11-12
Pam Miller – 250-9121 – Calgary

**Alberta Canada All Breeds Association — Livestock genetic marketing conference**
Capri Centre
Red Deer ..... December 12-13
Norma Dunn – 228-3467 – Calgary

**What's in Stock for You?**
Saskatoon Travelodge
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan ..... December 11-13
Bob Drysdale – (306)787-2045 – Regina, Saskatchewan

**Tax update seminar**
Olds College Lecture Theatre
Olds ..... December 18
Merle Good – 556-4240 – Olds

## 1991

**Unifarm annual convention**
Mayfield Inn
Edmonton ..... January 7-10
Willow Webb – 451-5912 – Edmonton

**Western Canadian Wheat Growers annual meeting and convention**
Victoria Inn
Brandon, Manitoba ..... January 9-11
Regina office – (306)586-5866 – Regina, Saskatchewan

**Pembina Forage Association annual seminar (holistic resource management)**
Barrhead ..... January 9
Luanne Berjian – 349-4546 – Westlock

**49th annual Alberta 4-H Leaders conference**
Edmonton ..... January 11-13
4-H branch – 427-2541 – Edmonton

**Society for Range Management 44th annual meeting**
Crystal Marriott Hotel
Arlington, Virgina, USA ..... January 12-17
SRM office – (303)355-7070 – Denver, Colorado

**1991 provincial soil conservation workshop and Alberta Conservation Tillage Society annual meeting**
Edmonton Inn
Edmonton ..... January 15 - 17
Peter Gamache – 422-4385 – Edmonton; Russ Evans – 936-5306 – Langdon

**Beef Cattle Days**
Trumpeter Motor Inn
Grande Prairie ..... January 16
Trevor Jones – 835-2291 – Fairview

**Association of Alberta Co-op Seed Cleaning Plants Ltd. annual meeting**
Westin Hotel
Edmonton.....January 17 - 19
Gus Lindstrom – 372-3580 – Bashaw;
Murray McLelland – 782-4641 – Lacombe

**Canada West Equipment Dealers Association convention and annual general meeting**
Ramada Renaissance Hotel, Saskatchewan Trade and Convention Centre
Regina, Saskatchewan .....January 17 - 19
William Lipsey – 250-7581 – Calgary

**Banff Pork Seminar**
Banff Springs Hotel
Banff.....January 22 - 25
Jerome Martin – 492-2406 – Edmonton

**Pembina Forage Association annual meeting**
Westlock.....January 23
Luanne Berjian – 349-4546 – Westlock

**Alberta Canola Producers Commission convention**
Hilton
Edmonton.....January 23 - 25
Tansy Molen – 452-6487 – Edmonton

**Canadian Charolais Association annual convention**
West Edmonton Mall
Edmonton.....January 24-27
CCA office – 250-9242 – Calgary

**Alberta Farm Women's Network conference**
Norseman Inn
Camrose.....January 30 - 31
Donna Graham – 485-6384 – Vulcan

**Alberta Dairymen's Association annual meeting and convention**
Marlborough Inn
Calgary..... February 4 - 6
Lawrence McKnight – 455-5164 – Edmonton

**Production for the 90s seminar (Alberta Wheat Pool and Western Co-operative Fertilizers)**
Lethbridge Lodge, Lethbridge, .....February 5
Medicine Hat Lodge, Medicine Hat, .....February 6
Jim Hahn – 382-3406 – Lethbridge;
Laurence Nicholson – 526-2955 – Medicine Hat

**Western Canadian Economic Conference on the Food Industry**
Mayfield Inn
Edmonton..... February 10 -11
John Melicher – 451-5959 – Edmonton

**Sustainable agriculture travelling symposium/workshops**
Grande Prairie Inn, Grande Prairie.....February 11
Summerdale Hall, Barrhead.....February 12
Lakeland College, Vermilion.....February 13
Olds College, Olds .....February 15
Legion Hall, Vulcan .....February 16
John Toogood – 430-7510 – Edmonton;
Ross Gould – 427-5083 – Edmonton

**Prairie Potato Council**
Mayfield Inn
Edmonton..... February 14-16
Jan Brown – 291-2430 – Calgary

**Western Barley Growers 14th annual convention and trade fair**
Kananaskis Lodge
Kananaskis Village..... February 20-22
Anne Schneider – 291-3620 – Calgary

**Farm Women — Decision with Vision conference**
Glenmore Inn
Calgary.....February 21
Kathy Lowther – Airdrie – 948-8551;
Maureen Bolen – 934-3355 – Strathmore

**Alberta Climatological Association annual general meeting**
Alberta Research Council
Edmonton.....February 21
Peter Dzikowski – 422-4385 – Edmonton

**Prairie Implement Manufacturers Association 21st annual convention**
Holiday Inn/Centennial Auditorium
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan..... February 21-23
Randy Poole – (306)522-2710 – Regina, Saskatchewan

**Ag Expo and North American seed fair**
Lethbridge and District Exhibition Whoop-up Park
Lethbridge ..... February 27 - March 2
Paulette Reid – 328-4491 – Lethbridge;
Doug Smith – 382-3404 – Lethbridge

**Calgary Seed Fair and Hay Show**
Stampede Park
Calgary.....March 2 -5
Don Stewart – 261-0271 – Calgary

**Managing Agriculture for Profit**
Kananaskis Lodge
Kananaskis Village.....March 3 - 6
Trish Pannell – 556-4240 – Olds

**Alberta Institute of Agrologists Annual Conference**
Red Deer Lodge
Red Deer.....March 8-9
Gary Bresee – 343-2433 – Red Deer

**Alberta Agriculture Week**.....March 10-16

**Western Canadian Dairy Seminar**
Red Deer Lodge
Red Deer.....March 12-15
Sheila Greenberg – 492-3029 – Edmonton

**Alberta Alfalfa Seed Producers Association (Peace branch) meeting**
Dunvegan Inn
Fairview.....March 14-15
Raymond Wood – 624-1438 – Peace River

**Horse Breeder's School**
Olds College
Olds.....March 15-17
Olds College Extension – 556-8344 – Olds

**Smoky River agricultural trade show (6th annual)**
Falher Arena
Falher.....March 21-23
Roch Bremont – 837-2211 – Falher

**National Soil Conservation Week**
.....April 8-14
Barb Shackel – 422-4385 – Edmonton

**Provincial 4-H public speaking competition**
Calgary.....April 13
4-H branch – 427-2541 – Edmonton

**Calgary Stampede Dairy Classic & Aggie Days**
Stampede Park
Calgary.....April 18 - 20
Agriculture Administration – 261-0162 – Calgary

**Provincial 4-H Selections**
Olds College
Olds.....April 26-29
4-H branch – 427-2541 – Edmonton

**Provincial highway clean-up**
..... May 4
4-H branch – 427-2541 – Edmonton

**Alberta Pork Congress**
Westerner Exposition
Red Deer.....June 11-13
Pat Kennedy – 340-5307 – Red Deer

**Women of Unifarm annual convention**
Camrose.....June 18-20
Willow Webb – 451-5912 – Edmonton

**8th International Rapeseed Congress**
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan..... July 9 - 11
J.M. Bell – (306)975-7066 – Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

**Canadian Hatchery Federation annual convention**
Kananaskis Lodge
Kananaskis Village.....August 12-15
Jim Haggins – 546-2445 – Linden

**International Quilters Conference**
Banff.....August 30 - September 2
Bonnie Murdoch – 245-4944 – Calgary

# Coming agricultural events

- Do you know of any provincial (Alberta), national or international agricultural meetings, conferences or conventions coming in **March, April, May or later in 1991**?Are there any events omitted in the attached list?

- Please state the name of the event.

- What are the dates?

- Where is the event being held? Include city or town; hotel and convention centre if known.

- Please give the name, city or town, and phone number of a contact person for each event listed.

- This form has been completed by (organization):

Please return this form by February 22, 1991 to:
Agri-News Editor
Information Services Division
J.G. O'Donoghue Building
7000 - 113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta
T6H 5T6
(Coming Agricultural Events is published four times a year in Agri-News.
The next edition will be printed March 4, 1991)

# AGRI-NEWS

CANADIANA

DEC 28 1990

December 10, 1990

For immediate release

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Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Print Media Branch

Phone: (403) 427-2121

December 10, 1990
For immediate release

# What landowners should know about well site reclamation

When oil or gas companies abandon a well site, landowners shouldn't be in a hurry to sign documents pertaining to the abandonment says Alberta's Farmers' Advocate.

"The farmer landowner isn't legally required to sign any documents in the reclamation process," says Cliff Downey. "On the other hand, the company is legally required to reclaim well sites and its obligations to the landowner end only when a reclamation certificate is issued by the Land Conservation and Reclamation Council."

Reclamation certificates are issued when a reclamation officer is satisfied the well site has been reclaimed to a standard similar to the surrounding area. Reclamation prevents deterioration, erosion and weed growth in the site area. It's the sole responsibility of the company to apply for the reclamation certificate.

Downey says over the past year the Farmers' Advocate's office has had a substantial increase in the number of complaints from landowners who aren't being paid annual compensation for well sites pending issuance of a reclamation certificate. "Our office is disturbed that some companies are circumventing or delaying the reclamation process," he says.

When a reclamation certificate is issued, it terminates any further annual lease payments the company makes to the landowner. "Usually companies move fairly quickly through the reclamation process for this obvious economic reason," says Downey.

"Some companies, however, circumvent this procedure by offering a landowner a nominal consideration to sign a document releasing the company from further responsibility to the farmer," he says. "The release says the well site has been restored to the satisfaction of the landowner and absolves the company of any further action, debts, demand or claims arising from the clean-up and surrender of the surface lease."

(Cont'd)

What landowners should know about well site reclamation (cont'd)

Several landowners who have signed those types of releases have found out later the well site wasn't reclaimed properly, says Downey. Cultivating, deep ripping, adding organic matter and further weed control were required by the Land Conservation and Reclamation Council before a reclamation certification could be issued.

"In the meantime, the farmer couldn't use the area for growing crops or hay and no claim could be made to the company for the losses," he says.

Downey also says some companies, after restoration work has been done but before the certificate has been issued, don't make any further annual compensation payments. If this happens, the landowner can apply to the Surface Rights Board for a remedy. If the Board agrees with the landowner's claim, the Provincial Treasury pays the amount owing and the company has to pay back the government.

"We believe reclamation of well sites and other related energy facilities will be a major concern to rural landowners in the future as thousands of oil and gas wells in Alberta are abandoned," says Downey. "At the Farmers' Advocate's office, we hope information about the legal requirements of reclamation will save our farmers and ranchers time and trouble."

Staff from the Farmers' Advocate's office are available to attend meetings, seminars and other functions to speak about reclamation and other surface rights issues as well as landowner rights. For more information, call the Farmers' Advocate's office in Edmonton at 427-2433.

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Contact: Cliff Downey
427-2433

December 10, 1990
For immediate release

Alberta farm assistance initiative announcements

Agriculture Minister Ernie Isley has announced a one-year extension of the Alberta Farm Fertilizer Price Protection Plan, and the successful completion of the Alberta Farm Credit Stability Program's lending phase.

The Farm Fertilizer Price Protection Plan will be continued until July 31, 1991. Through the plan, fertilizer purchased and applied until July 31, 1991, will be eligible for the rebate of $50 per tonne of nitrogen and $25 per tonne of phosphate contained in fertilizer blends.

Isley says Alberta farmers buy more than $290 million of fertilizer annually for the production of grains, oilseeds and forage crops. "Fertilizer purchases continue to represent as much as one-third of a producer's input costs," says the minister. "The Fertilizer Price Protection Plan has therefore proven very effective in terms of helping to reduce farm input costs. The extension of this program will be welcome news for farmers, especially in view of the tight profit margins currently experienced in the farm sector."

The extension of the program will be worth about $20 million to Alberta farmers over the course of the coming year.

The minister also announced the Alberta Farm Credit Stability Program has fulfilled its lending mandate, and in doing so has met all expectations of the Alberta government. The program's funding commitment of $2.5 billion was reached in July 1990, and the future of the program has been under consideration since that time.

"The Alberta Farm Credit Stability Program, one of the government's most successful farm finance initiatives, has reached its lending limit, but I'd like to stress that it has not ended. Loans made under the program will be in effect for their full terms, providing farm families with the benefit of low, fixed interest rates. The provincial government will continue to backstop these existing loans, maintaining their nine per cent rate of interest. This commitment will allow farmers to save over $100 million in interest costs over the next year alone."

(Cont'd)

Alberta farm assistance initiative announcements (cont'd)

The Alberta Farm Credit Stability Program was implemented in August 1986 to help reduce the cost of credit for farmers and improve their long-term planning ability. An initial funding commitment of $2 billion was made to the program, and the commitment was increased to $2.5 billion in March 1989. This limit was reached on July 6, 1990, after which loan authorizations ceased.

"The response to the Alberta Farm Credit Stability Program has been overwhelming," says Isley. "More than 30,000 loans have been made under the program, with some 60 per cent of loan amounts being used to improve farmers' debt position through refinancing. The balance of the funds were used to acquire farm assets such as land, machinery, equipment and breeding stock. This program has been a tremendous benefit to producers, helping to maintain viable farms in Alberta."

Isley notes the program loans were made under very flexible and favourable terms. Loans may be paid out in part or in their entirety at any time, without penalty. As well, a loan may be transfered from one borrower to another, if such a transfer is related to the acquisition of assets. "This is a key aspect of the on-going nature of the program," he says.

He adds, "The Government of Alberta has been a leader in farm finance initiatives. Between the Farm Credit Stability Program and the Alberta Agricultural Development Corporation's direct lending programs, the Province has made it possible to lock in approximately two-thirds of Alberta's farm debt at rates of nine per cent or better.

"As beneficial as the Farm Credit Stability Program has been to the province's farmers, increasing the program's lending limit will not solve the underlying problems currently affecting the farm sector. In light of this fact, and of the need to show restraint and responsibility in government expenditure, I believe we must explore different means of addressing the needs of the agricultural community. I can assure farm families that their provincial government will be monitoring very closely interest rates, fuel prices, grain prices and movement, and other factors affecting the health of the agriculture industry. We will respond appropriately, responsibly, and effectively to changing conditions in the industry," he says.

(Cont'd)

The Farm Credit Stability Program and Farm Fertilizer Price Protection Plan are administered by Alberta Agriculture's central program support. New application forms for the Farm Fertilizer Plan are to be distributed to Alberta Agriculture district offices by Thursday, December 6. For information, call 422-5672 in the Edmonton area or 1-800-642-3873 (toll-free). Information on the Alberta Farm Credit Stability Program can be obtained by calling 422-9167 in the Edmonton area or 1-800-232-9479 (toll-free).

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Contact: Brad Klak
427-2137

Ken Moholitny
422-9167 or
1-800-232-9479 (toll-free)

December 10, 1990
For immediate release

# Computer software guides beef rations

Alberta Agriculture's beef cattle and sheep branch has developed a computer program that provides farmers with a quick method of balancing or checking beef rations.

"The Cowbytes program is designed to build balanced rations and check existing rations to ensure the recommended nutrient levels are met," says Dale Engstrom, livestock nutritionist. "It can also formulate grain mixes and premixes for inclusion in rations."

The program uses a table of common feeds and a table of basic nutrient allowances for beef cattle. It calculates the nutrient values of a ration based on the amount of each feed the producer has selected to feed his herd.

Cowbytes operates on an IBM PC or is compatible with 412K internal memory and CGA graphics or better.

"The Cowbytes program is complementary to a new Alberta Agriculture home study course on cattle nutrition," says Faye Douglas-Phillips, home study co-ordinator. "The course provides a good understanding of basic nutrition concepts and ration formulation."

Both the cattle nutrition course and Cowbytes are available through the department's home study program. The software package with a user manual is $50 and not subject to the GST if ordered before December 31, 1990. After January 1, 1991, each software package will cost $53.50. It can be ordered by writing, and making cheques payable to, the Rural Education and Development Association (REDA), 14819-119 Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta, T5L 2N9.

Application forms and more information are available from any Alberta Agriculture district office or the home study program in Edmonton at 427-2404.

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Contact: Dale Engstrom
427-6361

Faye Douglas-Phillips
427-2404

December 10, 1990
For immediate release

# Winning tastes of oats

A recent provincial recipe contest proved promoting Alberta oats can be a flavorful experience.

The Oat Producers Association of Alberta held a "Taste of Alberta Oats" food contest in conjunction with its annual symposium in Edmonton. Prizes were awarded in four categories. Judges Edith Zawadiuk, Alberta Agriculture north east regional home economist, Gordon Morash, food writer with the Edmonton Journal, and Wilfredo Saltoc, Convention Inn pastry chef, sampled cookies, squares, muffins and nutritious snacks.

Lena Labonte of Plamondon won the muffin category with her blueberry oat muffins. First place in the squares competition was won by a matrimonial square recipe by Monica Melnyk of Edmonton. Oatmeal drop cookies won Annie Semeniuk of Vegreville first prize in the cookie category. Calmar's Frances Synch won top spot in the nutritious snack category with her whole wheat and oatmeal crackers recipe.

The top three recipes in each category won food and kitchenware hamper prizes of $75, $50 and $25 respectively. Winners were announced at the symposium banquet.

"The recipe contest focuses on an important part of our promotion and marketing efforts, making Albertans aware of oat products and how easy they are to use," says association president Peter Kirylychuk. "The health aspects and taste are another great part of oat products."

The contest was co-ordinated by Colleen Pierce, district home economist in Lac La Biche. Contest sponsors included: the Albera Egg and Fowl Marketing Board, the Alberta Food Processors Association, Safeway, Company's Coming Cookbooks, The Best of Bridge Publishing, Corning Canada, Ellison Milling, Hersheys, Quaker Oats, Robinhood Multifoods, Rogers Food and the Real Canadian Superstore.

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Contact: Colleen Pierce
623-5218

December 10, 1990
For immediate release

# Thaw, stuff and store Christmas turkey safely

Christmas cooks with turkey on their menu should take care in how they prepare, cook and then store their leftovers says an Alberta Agriculture food specialist.

"There are a lot of food poisoning hazards if you thaw, stuff, cook or don't store turkey properly," says Linda St. Onge of the home economics branch.

St. Onge says there are four safe ways to thaw a turkey. The bird can be thawed in the refrigerator placing the turkey on a tray to catch water. Allow about 10 hours per kilogram of meat for thawing. Thawing is also safe in cold water if the turkey is put in a water tight bag or container, she says. Allow two hours per kilogram for complete thawing. Turkey can also be thawed in the microwave, using the manufacturer's instructions.

"You can also thaw your turkey at room temperature if you follow special precautions. Insulate the turkey in a tightly closed heavy brown paper bag or with a thick layer of newspaper or towels. An insulated covered cooler also works. This insulation allows the turkey to thaw at a cold enough temperature to maintain food safety," she says. With this method, allow three hours per kilogram for thawing.

Two other tips on thawing are: keep the frozen turkey in its original plastic wrap with any of the thawing methods and once the turkey is thawed, keep it refrigerated and cook within 48 hours.

The next step is stuffing the turkey, and stuffing can cause problems if not properly handled. "Stuffing should be cooked separately from the bird for maximum safety. Because warm stuffing creates an ideal environment for bacterial growth, its presence in the bird can be hazardous before, during and after the turkey is cooked," she says.

If stuffing is cooked in a separate casserole dish, add extra liquid so it will be moist enough to stick together. Add 25 millilitres (mL) [two tablespoons] of liquid for each 250 to 375 mL (one to one and a half cups) of dressing.

(Cont'd)

A good choice of liquid is removing some from the pan the turkey is roasting in, she says. The casserole stuffing should be cooked in the oven for the last half hour of roasting time.

"If your choice is stuffing the bird, remember stuffing can only be done safely just before the turkey is popped into the oven. Never stuff a turkey the night before roasting or before freezing the bird," she says.

Once the turkey is cooked, immediately remove all the stuffing. If stuffing isn't removed it may stay warm long enough for bacteria to contaminate the leftover turkey and stuffing. Leftover stuffing must be refrigerated and used within three days.

The best roasting temperature is 325 degrees Fahrenheit (160 degrees Celsius). Higher temperatures cause protein toughening and shrinkage. Lower temperatures aren't recommended because naturally present bacteria might not be killed.

"Once the turkey has started roasting it must be completely cooked before removing from the oven," St. Onge says. The turkey can be covered with a loose tent of aluminum foil. During the last half hour of cooking, remove foil to baste and allow the bird to brown.

The most reliable way to test "doneness" is with a meat thermometer. An internal thigh muscle temperature of 185 degrees Fahrenheit (85 degrees Celsius) indicates the turkey is cooked. The internal temperature of stuffing should be at least 165 degrees Fahrenheit (74 degrees Celsius).

After cooking, keep the turkey hot, above 140 degrees Fahrenheit (60 degrees Celsius) or refrigerate at below 40 degrees Fahrenheit (4 degrees Celsius). The turkey shouldn't be left at room temperature for longer than two hours.

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Contact: Linda St. Onge
427-2412

December 10, 1990
For immediate release

# Giving festive flower gifts

Poinsettias are the traditional favorite plant gift during the holiday season, but a wide variety of flowering plants can put color into Christmas and winter says an Alberta Agriculture horticulturist.

"Chrysanthemums, Christmas cactus, azaleas and cyclamen are excellent gift ideas and add a festive touch to homes through the holiday season and beyond," says Pam North, information officer at the Alberta Tree Nursery and Horticultural Centre in Edmonton.

Chrysanthemums offer the most color choices. Available year-round, flowers come in a wide variety of forms and colors. Christmas cactus has flower shades of red, pink and orange. Red, pink and white flowering azaleas are popular at Christmas. Cyclamen's unusual and delicate flowers include pink, red, purple and white.

The traditional poinsettia comes in a variety of colors besides the common red. Pink, creamy white and marbled poinsettias are available. "Look for tricolor arrangements. This is a pot with one pink, one cream and one red poinsettia. It's very attractive and colorful," she says.

The colorful part of poinsettias are the bracts or modified leaves. With proper care they can last between two and three months. When buying a poinsettia check for the true flowers, the green and yellow structures at the top of each stem. "If the true flowers have fallen off, the plant isn't fresh," she says.

Another Christmas plant is the amaryllis. "It's the perfect gift plant because it's easy to grow and very showy," says North. Amaryllis is grown from a bulb and is sold individually or in gift boxes containing a bulb, pot and soil. Planting to flowering takes approximately six weeks.

When shopping for flowering plants, North suggests looking for the unique. "The 'mumsettia', a pot of white chrysanthemums surrounding a single red poinsettia, is a novel idea at Christmas. Ornamental peppers are an unusual and decorative plant at Christmas."

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Contact: Pam North
422-1789

December 10, 1990
For immediate release

# Caring for gift plants

Overwatering is the most common mistake people make when they receive a gift plant says an Alberta Agriculture horticulturist.

"The amount of water a plant needs depends on the type, but the general rule is to water the soil when it feels dry to the touch. One exception is the azalea and it should always be kept moist," says Pam North, information officer at the Alberta Tree Nursery and Horticultural Centre in Edmonton.

"One way to avoid a problem is to remove the colored foil wrap around gift plants when you are watering, then the plant won't sit in water. You can put the plants in a sink to water them, or make holes in the bottom of the foil so water can drain out," says North.

Put plants in bright light, but out of direct sun. A hot sunny location will usually reduce the life of flowers. Because winter frequently means cloudy days, ensure plants get enough light. In a dark dimly lit location flowers won't last as long.

Normal room temperatures are usually suitable, but flowering plants last longer in cool temperatures, between 16 and 22 degrees Celsius. Cyclamen, in particular, need cool conditions to thrive, she says.

As well, plants should be kept out of drafty locations such as by a door or over heat registers. Drafts will also reduce the length of time the plant is attractive.

Misting can prolong the life of flowers, but must be done frequently. "Frequently means at least twice a day to be of any benefit. Most homes are so dry that misting will be of little value. For plants that like high humidity, such as an azalea, set on a humidity tray."

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Contact: Pam North
422-1789

December 10, 1990
For immediate release

Economic principles used in farm planning
(Third in a series)

It takes some effort to learn the basics of farm planning, but once you've done it the skill will be useful for the rest of your life, says an Alberta Agriculture specialist.

"Understanding and using the principles in farm planning requires study and energy," says Craig Edwards, farm management economist at Alberta Agriculture's farm business management branch in Olds. "But once learned and applied, the principles benefit farmers by simplifying decision making."

Economic principles provide the framework to make informed and reasonable decisions which eventually will maximize the wealth of the decision maker. They are applied in all businesses, not only farming.

A principle is defined as a general or fundamental truth, comprehensive and fundamental law, doctrine or assumption on which others are based or from which others are derived. "In an era when management decisions are so critical to the success of any operation it's important that these fundamental laws--these economic principles--be understood when a farmer is planning," Edwards says.

"Fortunately," he adds, "There are only a few economic principles used to maximize returns in a business." These include diminishing returns, added costs and returns, equimarginal returns, opportunity costs and resource and product substitution.

In farm management, economic principles guide the decision-making process. They simplify the job of choosing which resources to use in the production process, what products to produce and how much of each to attempt to produce.

These business principles are just as real as the principles people live by, the principles of nature, or the principles of mechanics he says.

(Cont'd)

Economic principles used in farm planning (cont'd)

"Many of us live by the Golden Rule, 'Do unto others as you would have them do unto you' which is a principle to live by," he says. "We learn to stand upright in our cribs after we adapt to the principles of gravity. Farmers use augers to move grain, using the principles of the screw described by Archimedes more than 2000 years ago. We are surrounded by material goods built on the application of principles of nature, which we learned in school but can't remember now. How many of us can remember the principles of mechanics, heat and thermodynamics, optics, electricity, magnetism, sound and so on?"

Attending an Alberta Agriculture Gear Up Advantage course is one of the best ways to learn farm management planning skills, he says. Program information is available by calling any Alberta Agriculture district office.

The farm business management branch has developed two publications as a planning package. One is called "Gauge: A Year End 'Do It Yourself' Financial Package" and the other is the "Farm Financial Planning Worksheets" (FFPW). These publications may be available at Alberta Agriculture district offices. District staff and regional economists can also provide assistance to farmers interested in farm planning.

You can request the publications by writing Edwards at the Farm Business Management Branch, Box 2000, Olds, Alberta, T0M 1P0, or calling 556-4248.

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Contact: Craig Edwards
556-4248

December 10, 1990
For immediate release

Agri-News briefs

WAY WITH WORDS WEEKEND '90

More than 150 Alberta 4-Hers learned to "win with people" at three Way With Words Weekends (W4) across the province. The weekend workshops are designed to enhance interpersonal communication skills. The 1990 workshop theme "win with people" provided members and leaders with an opportunity to participate in small group sessions dealing with self esteem, non-verbal communication and listening skills. Delegates practiced their skills throughout the weekend plus had recreational fun in large group Pictionary, mini-golf and a fluorescent dance. Each participant received a certificate of achievement and workshop materials. They were encouraged to share this information with their clubs and districts through demonstrations and workshops. Alberta Agriculture was the sponsor of the workshops held at the Alberta 4-H Centre in Battle Lake and Lethbridge Community College. W4 workshops are a provincial program for senior 4-H members, 4-H leaders and alumni. For more information, contact Alain Joly, provincial 4-H personal development assistant, in Edmonton at 427-2541.

LAKELAND COLLEGE DAIRY HERD AND STUDENT JUDGES ARE WINNERS

Lakeland College's Vermilion campus is celebrating awards won by its dairy herd, and a team of student judges who returned with a first overall placing at the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair in Toronto. For the sixth year in seven the college's dairy earned a Northern Alberta Dairy Pool award for highest quality milk. Eight of 39 northern Alberta producers received the award. Lakeland College had a perfect score in all samples taken from October 1989 through September 1990 and tested for bacteria counts, presence of antibiotics, udder infections and water in milk. The college currently milks 30 cows of the 60 head Friesen Holstein operation. Students in animal health and production program make extensive use of the dairy as a learning facility. For more information, contact John Jorgensen, dairy herdsman, at 853-8450. The campus' intercollegiate judging team is also basking in the limelight.

(Cont'd)

Agri-News briefs (cont'd)

LAKELAND COLLEGE DAIRY HERD AND STUDENT JUDGES ARE WINNERS (cont'd)
The all-female, four member team was first overall in the intercollegiate competition. The team was also first in swine, beef and horse elements of the competition. Team member Kimberly Nousek, of Fort Saskatchewan, was voted both top junior judge and top overall judge in the horse class. Other team members are: Josie McKenzie of Nesbitt, Manitoba, Natalie Chubb of Avonhurst, Saskatchewan, and Catherine Brown of Tofield, Alberta. The four have been invited to be official judges at the Camrose Bull Congress in January and will continue to compete at the Canadian Intercollegiate Judging Competition at the University of Guelph in March and a Western Canadian competition during Lakeland's Little Royal the same month. For more information, contact Lakeland College communications office in Vermilion at 853-8528.

PEACE REGION FARM WOMEN'S CONFERENCE BIG DRAW

The 13th annual Peace region farm women's conference attracted 250 farm women to Grande Prairie last month. Beginning with a focus on farm women as a important part of the farm team and closing with good family communication and strong relationships to face change and uncertainties, the conference provided farm women with motivational and educational sessions. For more information, contact Leona Skulmoski, Alberta Agriculture district home economist in Fort Vermilion at 927-3712.

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CANADIANA
JAN - 8 1991

N·O·E·L

**EDITOR'S NOTE**

To: Editors and News Directors

You are receiving both the December 24 and December 31, 1990 issues of Agri-News in this mailing to accomodate our Christmas schedule.

Although both issues are dated, there is no embargo in effect, so feel free to use as needed.

Our regular publishing and mailing will resume with the January 7, 1991 issue.

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Alberta

# AGRI-NEWS

December 17, 1990

For immediate release

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Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Print Media Branch

Phone: (403) 427-2121

December 24, 1990
For immediate release

# Seed testing, vigilance still key to fighting blackleg of canola

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"Losses this year were probably less than one per cent," says Ieuan Evans of the crop protection branch. "That number is a credit to the producers who have tested their seed, planted tested seed, followed four-year rotations and other recommended methods of preventing spread of the fungal disease. By continuing their efforts to date, the disease shouldn't become as large a problem here as it has been in the other Prairie provinces."

Virulent blackleg of canola was first recorded in Alberta in 1983. The disease spread slowly westward from Saskatchewan into east central Alberta. This year 10 to 15 per cent losses in Saskatchewan were down from previous highs, with the decrease attributed to growers following four year rotations.

The first step in blackleg control is prevention through using disease free seed, Evans says. "This means no grower should buy or use seed that hasn't been tested and certified as virulent blackleg free." Alberta Agriculture recommends six accredited seed testing laboratories: Norwest Laboratories and United Grain Growers Seed Division in Edmonton; the Alberta Wheat Pool in Camrose and Grande Prairie; 20/20 Seed in Nisku; and, Newfield Seeds in Nipawin, Saskatchewan.

Prevention extends to seeding. "All canola should be treated with a recommended fungicide prior to planting even if the seed has tested blackleg negative. This just lessens the risk of accidentally introducing blackleg onto your land and provides additional protection from other soil-borne diseases," says Evans.

Practising proper crop rotations greatly helps to prevent blackleg infestations. Canola should be grown only every four years on a field. As well, weed control of volunteer canola and wild mustards is a very important preventative measure.

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Seed testing, vigilance still key to fighting blackleg of canola (cont'd)

If a blackleg infestation does occur, producers should bury stubble deep in the fall or, where soil erosion is a problem, incorporate stubble just before planting. In the following three crop seasons, shallow tillage and direct seeding of alternate crops are recommended to avoid bringing infected residues to the surface. Producers too, should avoid planting canola closer than one kilometre from infested land.

Alberta Agriculture has a publication about the disease--"Blackleg of Canola" (Agdex 149\632-3)--and how it can be prevented and controlled. It's available from the Publications Office, 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6. For more information, contact an Alberta Agriculture district agriculturist, regional crop specialist or Evans at the crop protection branch in Edmonton at 427-7098.

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A follow up with 60 growers who had blackleg confirmed in 1989 showed all had followed recommended rotations and achieved complete mustard weed and volunteer canola control, notes Evans.

The 1990 survey was conducted in July and August in co-operation with provincial and municipal field staff, Agricultural Canada seed inspectors and with diagnostic assistance from plant pathologists in Brooks, Fairview and Vegreville.

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Contact: Dr. Ieuan Evans
427-7098

December 24, 1990
For immediate release

# Contribute to 4-H 75th history buy a book, write a story

The story of 4-H's 75 years in Alberta will be told in a special edition history book with help from people who are and were involved with 4-H.

Albertans with 4-H stories to tell are invited to submit their stories to the history's editor Keith Jones. A guide is available from the editor to help groups prepare their submissions.

"The history really belongs to the people, so that's why we're inviting Albertans to tell their 4-H stories," says Mahlon Weir, of the 4-H branch. The final product will be a hardcover 800 page book with over 1,000 photographs, he adds.

Awards will be given to the best submissions for: outstanding club or group history, outstanding project or program history; outstanding personality profile; favourite 4-H experience; funniest 4-H happening; and, best photographs from the periods of 1917-1942, 1943-1967 and 1968 to today.

To assist in covering the book's costs, special editions of the book are being sold prepublication. Gold edition books, the first 25 copies off the press, are priced at $1,000. Silver edition books, numbers 26 through 75, are $500 and "75th Supporter" editions are $75 (numbers 76 to 200). Cheques can be made payable to Alberta 4-H 75th Anniversary Committee and sent to Keith Jones, the book's editor, at Box 240 Balzac, T0M 0E0. GST doesn't apply if ordered before December 31, 1990

Another book commemorating the 75th anniversary is already available. "4-H Favourites", a cookbook with over 1,100 recipes contributed by members and friends of 4-H, is available from 4-H clubs across the province for $15.

Planning is already underway for Showcase'92, an anniversary party slated for Calgary in July 1992. Gail Companion of High River has been hired to co-ordinate the three-day event.

Alberta's first 4-H club was a swine club in Olds established in 1917.

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Contact: Mahlon Weir
422-4444

Keith Jones
295-2658

December 24, 1990
For immediate release

Farm business is family business conference theme

An annual farm management conference has a new name, Managing Agriculture for Profit (MAP), but will wear a familiar face.

"Based on the very successful Managing Agricultural Technology for Profit (MATFP) conferences, MAP'91 will bring participants the same mix of top-notch experts at a location suitable for a 'management retreat' before farm couples jump into the busy spring and summer season," says Paul Gervais, conference co-ordinator. The first MATFP conference was held in Banff in 1978.

The overall theme for the 1991 conference March 3 to 6 at The Lodge at Kananaskis is "farm business is family business". Kicking-off the theme is opening keynote speaker John Paterson, a clinical psychologist, author and popular co-host of the afternoon radio talk show "That's Living". "Dr. Paterson will draw on his real-life experiences to energize and motivate MAP'91 participants and help them deal with life's everyday challenges while juggling the demands of the family and farm business," Gervais says.

Sessions with family and farm business management experts from across Canada and the United States will look at topics from risk and investments in agriculture to dealing with people.

"One keynote session participants won't want to miss is with Dr. Don Jonovic of Cleveland, Ohio. He'll talk about dealing with success and succession in the family-owned and managed business," he says.

Back by popular demand is Tim Ball from the University of Winnipeg. A dynamic and humourous raconteur, Ball will discuss farming and marketing in the global village. Ball has discussed myth and realities of the greenhouse effect, water as a resource issue and geopolitics at previous conferences.

The wide range of topics at the MAP conference also includes an update on farm law, learning to talk with family, improving memory, the fallout from GATT and free trade agreements and cashing in on value-added processing.

(Cont'd)

Farm business is family business conference theme (cont'd)

"One of the continuing features of the conference is the time set aside for informal evening discussions with the speakers and with other participants," says Gervais.

Brochures and registration forms are now available from all Alberta Agriculture district offices. "We encourage farm couples to attend and registration costs reflects that. A single registration is $125, or just $25 more for a couple."

MAP'91 is co-sponsored by the Rural Education Development Association (REDA) and Alberta Agriculture's farm business management branch with additional assistance from the private and public sectors.

For more information, contact the nearest Alberta Agriculture district office, or Trish Pannell or Gervais in Olds at 556-4240 (FAX 556-7545). You can also contact them by writing the Farm Business Management Branch, Box 2000, Olds, Alberta, T0M 1P0.

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Contact: Paul Gervais
556-4240

Trish Pannell
556-4240

December 24, 1990
For immediate release

## Next CARTT application deadline February 1

February 1 is the next application for project assistance from the Canada\Alberta Agreement on Soil, Water, Cropping Research and Technology Transfer (CARTT) program.

"This application deadline is for projects starting after April 1, 1991," says Russel Horvey, provincial CARTT co-ordinator. Completed application forms must be submitted to one of six regional soil conversation co-ordinators by February 1, 1991.

Project proposals for demonstrations and awareness\technology transfer activities may be submitted to CARTT by any producer, producer organization, agricultural service board or any other organization interested in promoting sound soil and water conservation practices.

"If you have any questions or concerns about the deadline date, a project proposal or the CARTT approval process, please contact the regional soil conservation co-ordinator in your area or your local Alberta Agriculture regional office," he says.

Application forms are available from Alberta Agriculture district offices, agricultural service board fieldmen, the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration (PFRA) and Alberta Agriculture regional offices.

The other 1991 CARTT application deadlines for project proposals are: June 1 for projects starting after August 1 and October 1 for projects started after December 1.

CARTT's objective is to develop and transfer appropriate conservation tillage and cropping technology which will minimize soil degradation and sustain economic crop production.

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Contact: Russel Horvey
422-4385

December 24, 1990
For immediate release

Fertilizer economics
(Fifth in a series)

Farmers planning to fertilize in the 1991 crop year can improve their decision making skills by studying an Alberta Agriculture factsheet.

The factsheet, "Fertilizer Economics" (Agdex 822-11), is available from Alberta Agriculture district offices or from the Publications Office, 7000 - 113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6.

"The publication uses a common sense approach to help interested producers decide how much nitrogen fertilizer to apply," says Craig Edwards, a department specialist in Olds.

Marginal analysis and equal marginal return analysis are demonstrated with a common sense method based on comparing added returns with the added costs of each application. The comparison enables producers to assess potential gains relative to potential losses and helps them to select a rate of application associated with their ability to take risks and their attitude about taking chances on the outcome.

"Producers can use the procedure described in the article to improve the probability of increasing the profitability of their production. Understanding the concepts will assist in developing production plans that make economic sense," he says.

Farmers interested in a comprehensive farm management course should register for Alberta Agriculture's Gear Up Advantage as soon as possible. Call any Alberta Agriculture district office for information.

The farm business management branch has developed two publications as a planning package. One is "Gauge: A Year End 'Do It Yourself' Financial Package" and the other is "Farm Financial Planning Worksheets" (FFPW). These publications may be available at Alberta Agriculture district offices. You can also request the publications by writing Edwards at the Farm Business Management Branch, Box 2000, Olds, Alberta, TOM 1PO, or calling 556-4248.

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Contact: Craig Edwards
556-4248

December 24, 1990
For immediate release

Agri-News briefs

DEC. 31 DEADLINE FOR CANOLA, FLAX, RYE, OATS ADVANCE PAYMENTS APPLICATIONS

Cash advance applications for canola, flax, rye, oats must be post marked December 31, 1990. According to Agriculture Canada, producers seeking assistance for these crops can get application forms from their local elevator or directly from the Alberta Wheat Pool head office. Advance payments are based on rates of $120 per tonne for canola and flax and $30 per tonne for rye and oats. An administration fee of $110 per application will be charged and three per cent of the advance will be withheld to pay for default liability insurance. The maximum amount of advance on these crops is $50,000 per application which is a combined maximum with any advances under the Prairie Grain Advance Payments Act. Cash advances for crops other than wheat or barley are administered by producer organizations working with Agriculture Canada. The Prairie Canola Growers Council is administering cash advances for canola, flax, rye and oats. After cash advances are made, producers will deliver when opportunities occur and repayments will be made on the cash advances when deliveries are purchased. Deductions will be made from any of the four crops even when the cash advance is based only on one crop. Information is available from Charlie Froebe at the Prairie Canola Growers Council at (204)745-2256.

FIFTH ANNUAL CAMROSE BULL CONGRESS

January 25 and 26 the Camrose Regional Exhibition (CRE) is holding its fifth annual bull congress. Keynote speaker at the event is Bill Turner from Texas A and M University. He'll make two presentations, one on the role of the purebred herd in the livestock industry, and a second on testicular measurements and bull fertility. The CRE, Alberta Agriculture and Agriculture Canada sponsor the congress. For more information, call the CRE at 672-3640.

FARM WOMEN'S NETWORK CONFERENCE INCREDIBLE JOURNEY THEME

The Alberta Farm Women's Network will look at farming as an incredible

(Cont'd)

Agri-News briefs (cont'd)

FARM WOMEN'S NETWORK CONFERENCE INCREDIBLE JOURNEY THEME (cont'd)
journey at its annual conference January 30 and 31 in Camrose. The second morning of the conference will be devoted to looking at farming as a incredible journey through the work of assorted farm organizations and individuals. Also featured are: Ellen MacLean of Nova Scotia, past president of the Associated Country Women of the World; Jean Leahy of Fort St. John, vice president of the National Farmers Union; Saskatchewan author Lois Ross; Hubert Esquinol, member of the federal task force on sustainable agriculture; and, Alberta's associate agriculture minister Shirley McClellan. The Farm Women of Year luncheon is also part of conference activities. Registration packages are available from Alberta Agriculture district home economists. For more information, contact the Alberta Farm Women's Network at 9632-83 Street, Edmonton, T6C 3A3 or call Donna Graham at 485-6384 or Mary Fleming at 728-3507.

LEADERSHIP WORKSHOPS OFFERED AT GOLDEYE

Developing leadership potential is the aim of a series of a rural workshops offered by the Rural Education and Development Association (REDA) and the University of Alberta's extension faculty. An introductory workshop is January 21 through 25 at Goldeye Centre near Nordegg. The level two intermediate workshop is February 18 to 22. Brochures and applications for the workshops are available from REDA at 14815-119 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5L 2N9 or call Richard Stringham at 451-5959.

CANOLA COMMISSION FIRST CONVENTION JAN.23-25

The Alberta Canola Producers Commission is holding its first annual convention January 23 through 25 at the Edmonton Hilton Hotel. Conference speakers will discuss marketing, trade, market outlooks, new canola varieties, biotechnology and productivity centres. Two of the guest speakers are Shogo Suzuki, of Mitsui and Co. speaking on the Japanese canola market, and agriculture minister Ernie Isley. For registration and other information, please contact Pansy Molen at the commission office in Edmonton at 452-6487.

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N·O·E·L

JAN 22 1991

**EDITOR'S NOTE**

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Alberta

# AGRI-NEWS

December 24, 1990

For immediate release

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Contact: Mahlon Weir
422-4444

Keith Jones
295-2658

December 24, 1990
For immediate release

Farm business is family business conference theme

An annual farm management conference has a new name, Managing Agriculture for Profit (MAP), but will wear a familiar face.

"Based on the very successful Managing Agricultural Technology for Profit (MATFP) conferences, MAP'91 will bring participants the same mix of top-notch experts at a location suitable for a 'management retreat' before farm couples jump into the busy spring and summer season," says Paul Gervais, conference co-ordinator. The first MATFP conference was held in Banff in 1978.

The overall theme for the 1991 conference March 3 to 6 at The Lodge at Kananaskis is "farm business is family business". Kicking-off the theme is opening keynote speaker John Paterson, a clinical psychologist, author and popular co-host of the afternoon radio talk show "That's Living". "Dr. Paterson will draw on his real-life experiences to energize and motivate MAP'91 participants and help them deal with life's everyday challenges while juggling the demands of the family and farm business," Gervais says.

Sessions with family and farm business management experts from across Canada and the United States will look at topics from risk and investments in agriculture to dealing with people.

"One keynote session participants won't want to miss is with Dr. Don Jonovic of Cleveland, Ohio. He'll talk about dealing with success and succession in the family-owned and managed business," he says.

Back by popular demand is Tim Ball from the University of Winnipeg. A dynamic and humourous raconteur, Ball will discuss farming and marketing in the global village. Ball has discussed myth and realities of the greenhouse effect, water as a resource issue and geopolitics at previous conferences.

The wide range of topics at the MAP conference also includes an update on farm law, learning to talk with family, improving memory, the fallout from GATT and free trade agreements and cashing in on value-added processing.

(Cont'd)

Farm business is family business conference theme (cont'd)

"One of the continuing features of the conference is the time set aside for informal evening discussions with the speakers and with other participants," says Gervais.

Brochures and registration forms are now available from all Alberta Agriculture district offices. "We encourage farm couples to attend and registration costs reflects that. A single registration is $125, or just $25 more for a couple."

MAP'91 is co-sponsored by the Rural Education Development Association (REDA) and Alberta Agriculture's farm business management branch with additional assistance from the private and public sectors.

For more information, contact the nearest Alberta Agriculture district office, or Trish Pannell or Gervais in Olds at 556-4240 (FAX 556-7545). You can also contact them by writing the Farm Business Management Branch, Box 2000, Olds, Alberta, T0M 1P0.

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Contact: Paul Gervais
556-4240

Trish Pannell
556-4240

December 24, 1990
For immediate release

## Next CARTT application deadline February 1

February 1 is the next application for project assistance from the Canada\Alberta Agreement on Soil, Water, Cropping Research and Technology Transfer (CARTT) program.

"This application deadline is for projects starting after April 1, 1991," says Russel Horvey, provincial CARTT co-ordinator. Completed application forms must be submitted to one of six regional soil conversation co-ordinators by February 1, 1991.

Project proposals for demonstrations and awareness\technology transfer activities may be submitted to CARTT by any producer, producer organization, agricultural service board or any other organization interested in promoting sound soil and water conservation practices.

"If you have any questions or concerns about the deadline date, a project proposal or the CARTT approval process, please contact the regional soil conservation co-ordinator in your area or your local Alberta Agriculture regional office," he says.

Application forms are available from Alberta Agriculture district offices, agricultural service board fieldmen, the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration (PFRA) and Alberta Agriculture regional offices.

The other 1991 CARTT application deadlines for project proposals are: June 1 for projects starting after August 1 and October 1 for projects started after December 1.

CARTT's objective is to develop and transfer appropriate conservation tillage and cropping technology which will minimize soil degradation and sustain economic crop production.

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December 24, 1990
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Fertilizer economics
(Fifth in a series)

Farmers planning to fertilize in the 1991 crop year can improve their decision making skills by studying an Alberta Agriculture factsheet.

The factsheet, "Fertilizer Economics" (Agdex 822-11), is available from Alberta Agriculture district offices or from the Publications Office, 7000 - 113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6.

"The publication uses a common sense approach to help interested producers decide how much nitrogen fertilizer to apply," says Craig Edwards, a department specialist in Olds.

Marginal analysis and equal marginal return analysis are demonstrated with a common sense method based on comparing added returns with the added costs of each application. The comparison enables producers to assess potential gains relative to potential losses and helps them to select a rate of application associated with their ability to take risks and their attitude about taking chances on the outcome.

"Producers can use the procedure described in the article to improve the probability of increasing the profitability of their production. Understanding the concepts will assist in developing production plans that make economic sense," he says.

Farmers interested in a comprehensive farm management course should register for Alberta Agriculture's Gear Up Advantage as soon as possible. Call any Alberta Agriculture district office for information.

The farm business management branch has developed two publications as a planning package. One is "Gauge: A Year End 'Do It Yourself' Financial Package" and the other is "Farm Financial Planning Worksheets" (FFPW). These publications may be available at Alberta Agriculture district offices. You can also request the publications by writing Edwards at the Farm Business Management Branch, Box 2000, Olds, Alberta, T0M 1P0, or calling 556-4248.

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Contact: Craig Edwards
556-4248

December 24, 1990
For immediate release

Agri-News briefs

DEC. 31 DEADLINE FOR CANOLA, FLAX, RYE, OATS ADVANCE PAYMENTS APPLICATIONS

Cash advance applications for canola, flax, rye, oats must be post marked December 31, 1990. According to Agriculture Canada, producers seeking assistance for these crops can get application forms from their local elevator or directly from the Alberta Wheat Pool head office. Advance payments are based on rates of $120 per tonne for canola and flax and $30 per tonne for rye and oats. An administration fee of $110 per application will be charged and three per cent of the advance will be withheld to pay for default liability insurance. The maximum amount of advance on these crops is $50,000 per application which is a combined maximum with any advances under the Prairie Grain Advance Payments Act. Cash advances for crops other than wheat or barley are administered by producer organizations working with Agriculture Canada. The Prairie Canola Growers Council is administering cash advances for canola, flax, rye and oats. After cash advances are made, producers will deliver when opportunities occur and repayments will be made on the cash advances when deliveries are purchased. Deductions will be made from any of the four crops even when the cash advance is based only on one crop. Information is available from Charlie Froebe at the Prairie Canola Growers Council at (204)745-2256.

FIFTH ANNUAL CAMROSE BULL CONGRESS

January 25 and 26 the Camrose Regional Exhibition (CRE) is holding its fifth annual bull congress. Keynote speaker at the event is Bill Turner from Texas A and M University. He'll make two presentations, one on the role of the purebred herd in the livestock industry, and a second on testicular measurements and bull fertility. The CRE, Alberta Agriculture and Agriculture Canada sponsor the congress. For more information, call the CRE at 672-3640.

FARM WOMEN'S NETWORK CONFERENCE INCREDIBLE JOURNEY THEME

The Alberta Farm Women's Network will look at farming as an incredible

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Agri-News briefs (cont'd)

FARM WOMEN'S NETWORK CONFERENCE INCREDIBLE JOURNEY THEME (cont'd)

journey at its annual conference January 30 and 31 in Camrose. The second morning of the conference will be devoted to looking at farming as a incredible journey through the work of assorted farm organizations and individuals. Also featured are: Ellen MacLean of Nova Scotia, past president of the Associated Country Women of the World; Jean Leahy of Fort St. John, vice president of the National Farmers Union; Saskatchewan author Lois Ross; Hubert Esquinol, member of the federal task force on sustainable agriculture; and, Alberta's associate agriculture minister Shirley McClellan. The Farm Women of Year luncheon is also part of conference activities. Registration packages are available from Alberta Agriculture district home economists. For more information, contact the Alberta Farm Women's Network at 9632-83 Street, Edmonton, T6C 3A3 or call Donna Graham at 485-6384 or Mary Fleming at 728-3507.

LEADERSHIP WORKSHOPS OFFERED AT GOLDEYE

Developing leadership potential is the aim of a series of annual workshops offered by the Rural Education and Development Association (REDA) and the University of Alberta's extension faculty. An introductory workshop is January 21 through 25 at Goldeye Centre near Nordegg. The level two intermediate workshop is February 18 to 22. Brochures and applications for the workshops are available from REDA at 14815-119 Street, Edmonton Alberta, T5L 2N9 or call Richard Stringham at 451-5959.

CANOLA COMMISSION FIRST CONVENTION JAN.23-25

The Alberta Canola Producers Commission is holding its first annual convention January 23 through 25 at the Edmonton Hilton Hotel. Conference speakers will discuss marketing, trade, market outlooks, new canola varieties, biotechnology and productivity centres. Two of the guest speakers are Shogo Suzuki, of Mitsui and Co. speaking on the Japanese canola market, and agriculture minister Ernie Isley. For registration and other information, please contact Pansy Molen at the commission office in Edmonton at 452-6487.

# AGRI-NEWS

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For immediate release

CANADIANA

JAN 22 1991

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Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Print Media Branch

Phone: (403) 427-2121

December 31, 1990
For immediate release

Method of payment, trade issues critical in '91 says minister

Progress on the method of payment debate and in resolving trade issues will be two of the most important topics in agriculture in 1991 says Alberta's Minister of Agriculture.

"Changes in the international arena will certainly be a major factor in the direction of agriculture here in Alberta, especially for our hard hit grains sector," says Ernie Isley. "In the last number of years we've seen what the lack of an open world market does to Alberta grain and oilseed producers. As a province that relies heavily on exports, Alberta had to take an increasingly large role in international efforts to liberalize trade.

"Freer access to markets for our agricultural products is our goal, and the suspension of the GATT discussions certainly hasn't been a positive development for our farmers. We're still hoping the deadlock between the United States and the European Community can be broken, however, and that a settlement can be reached that will benefit all of the world's farming community."

Speaking in an year-end interview Isley stressed that, with or without significant progress in the area of international trade relations, there are important decisions to be made in Canada's domestic agricultural policies.

"One of the key areas is the debate centered on grain transportation policy," says Isley. "I've talked to a lot of farmers and producer groups lately about the Freedom to Choose proposal for transportation reform. Freedom to Choose would put control over agricultural production, marketing and transportation decisions where it belongs--in the hands of farmers."

The Freedom to Choose proposal was released by Alberta Agriculture in September. The proposal calls for a federal government buy out of the Crow Benefit, plus other revisions to the Western Grain Transportation Act to improve the efficiency of the West's handling and transportation system."

Through Freedom to Choose, the full value of the Crow Benefit would be retained by farmers. Farmers would receive $7.2 billion in government bonds, applied to arable land.

(Cont'd)

Method of payment, trade issues critical in '91 says minister (cont'd)

As its title suggests, farmers would have the opportunity to choose from a number of options in the proposal. They could choose to hold the bonds for a full 15 years and receive interest annually, or sell whenever they like and use the revenue as an investment, to improve their farms or to pay down debt.

Isley emphasizes reform of the Crow and the Western Grain Transportation Act shouldn't drive a wedge between the province's grain and livestock producers, or between farmers in the north and south. "At such a critical time for agriculture in Alberta, it's essential farmers join together in a united front to improve our industry." The bottom line in transportation reform, he adds, is that neither producers nor governments can afford an inefficient system. Transportation and handling costs keep going up, and since the Crow Benefit is set at a fixed amount, farmers pay the difference. And, it's becoming increasingly clear government treasuries are nearing the limit of their ability to help farmers offset costs.

"Changes are hitting our agriculture industry from all directions, and we've got to move with the times. The rapid transformation of our traditional trading environment has made it essential that we place greater emphasis on adding value to our grains and oilseeds here at home. We've got to lessen our reliance on selling raw grains into the boom and bust export market, and increase our returns through sales of value added items, including both processed grain products and livestock. That's going to mean improving the way in which Western Canada handles and ships its grains.

"I can't stress enough how important the further development of value-added industries is to the future strength of agriculture in Alberta, and to the provincial economy as a whole. Diversification means dollars.

"We've made good progress so far in economic diversification, and I think we'll do even better in 1991. My department has supported innovation, diversification and entrepreneurship in the agriculture industry, and will continue to do so in the year ahead.

"There may well be some dark days ahead," Isley concludes, "But, I firmly believe Alberta producers and our agri-food industry have what it takes to compete and prosper in the New Year."

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Contact: Brad Klak
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Decmeber 31, 1990
For immediate release

More issues than trade to work on says associate minister

Alberta producers should take heart at the progress that's been made in strengthening the agricultural industry, and keep working towards making it better says Alberta's associate agriculture minister.

"While the recess in the GATT talks and the eventual outcome hangs in the balance, that cloud can't block our view of other major issues in our industry," says Shirley McClellan. "Certainly the GATT negotiations will have a large impact on a number of agricultural issues. For example, how safety net programs that have been proposed for grain and oilseed sectors would fit into any agreement."

McClellan, in a year end interview, underscored the continued work in national agri-food policy reviews. "One example is removal of technical barriers to interprovincial agricultural trade. It's something we can't overlook as an important step in improving the whole Canadian industry. That's something internal that we have to resolve, and speeding up removal of those barriers will help our province's producers.

"The scope of the national review is staggering, but I think it's important to maintain perspective and concentrate on the end goal: a competitive and strong agricultural industry," she says.

McClellan watched the national pesticide review with interest. Feedback on the committee's report was due at the year's end. "The words pesticide and chemical immediately get a negative public response. Certainly the agricultural community has always recognized the health risks in handling pesticides, and understands even better than the general public the health and environmental risks. Ultimately, it's the farmer who will be most affected.

"Society, as a whole, also needs to understand the role of pesticides. They are far too expensive for farmers to use unwisely or needlessly, but are a critical management tool in modern competitive production."

Society's view of pesticides brings up another issue the agricultural community will have to address in the coming years: how an urban population further and further removed from the farm perceives agriculture.

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More issues than trade to work on says associate minister (cont'd)

"I think farmers are very troubled by the lack of knowledge and understanding in the general public about agriculture and agricultural issues. People seem to have forgotten that their food comes from further away than their supermarket shelves.

"Educating urban Alberta is going on everyday through Ag in the Classroom and other programs. Also, I'm very excited about the Agricultural Ambassador program that is going into the province's schools. We have to teach young Albertans about the value of agriculture and how far it reaches into their lives. I'm very pleased to see commodity and producer groups moving to re-establish an organization that will take on the role of agricultural awareness."

While agriculture is under the microscope, McClellan says farmers, agribusiness people and others involved in the agriculture industry shouldn't overlook the positive aspects of their industry. "Wherever I go outside the province, whether to a national meeting or on a trade mission outside Canada, I can always say that Alberta's farms are the best in the world. Our product quality, our efficiency, our methods of production and our use of the most current technology puts us at the top of the list.

"This quality factor is everywhere in our industry. I'm very proud of the role our front line department staff play, and will continue to play, in the productivity and profitability of agriculture. This point was really hammered home to me when I was on a trade mission in the Soviet Union.

"One of the biggest problems in the Soviet Union is the lack of technology transfer from their scientists to their producers. They need a mechanism that we take for granted in Alberta. Fortunately here, extension has been built into our system from the very beginning."

McClellan says she's also very pleased with progress in soil conservation efforts across the province. "I have numerous opportunities to meet with conservation groups and farmers, talk with them and tour research plots. The commitment to improving and maintaining our soils is deep and abiding, and I'm confident Alberta farmers will continue to do all they can to preserve this basic agricultural resource."

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Contact: Jim Kiss
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December 31, 1990
For immediate release

Managing mares horse conference highlight

Handling problem broodmares and the influence body condition has on a mare's reproductive performance are two mare management topics on the agenda of the 1991 Horse Breeders and Owners Conference in Red Deer January 11 through 13.

Mike Stuart, farm manager of an Oklahoma quarter horse operation, will discuss handling problem broodmares. Broodmare management is one of his general areas of responsibility at Bob Moore Farms.

"With his extensive background and practical experience, Mr. Stuart has many tips to share with horse breeders on management," says Bob Coleman, Alberta Agriculture provincial horse specialist. "He'll talk about basic day-to-day care with a special emphasis on the hard to breed mare."

Jim Kubiak's topic is body condition's influence on a mare's reproductive performance. Kubiak, an Olds College instructor, will detail ideal body condition scores for breeding stock and outline the condition scoring system, a scale of one through nine representing the range from poor to extremely fat.

"Mares should be at a body condition score of five or more when they're bred," says Coleman. A body score of five is described as moderate. At that condition, ribs can't be visually distinguished but can be easily felt, shoulders and neck blend smoothly into the body, fat around the tailhead begins to feel spongy and withers appear rounded over spinous processes.

Another Olds College equine instructor is on the conference line-up. Shannon Oldham will discuss feeding fat to performance horses. "She'll introduce horse owners to the many benefits, as well as the precautions necessary when feeding fat to horses," says Coleman.

Many other topics are also on the wide ranging conference agenda covering conformation, reproduction and marketing. The annual conference has developed into one of the best in North America dedicated to horse breeders and owners. It attracts about 275 people to hear more than 15 internationally recognized horsemen, veterinarians and researchers.

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Contact: Bob Coleman
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# Donkey care and feeding highlighted in publication

A new Alberta Agriculture publication fills the information gap about how to care for and feed donkeys.

"Interest in donkeys has grown through the past few years," says Bob Coleman, provincial horse specialist. Donkeys have been used for the same kind of activities as horses, such as pack animals, pleasure driving and pleasure riding, he says. Among the new uses are as a predator control when kept with sheep and to assist in halter breaking show cattle and horses.

"While people are using donkeys for a lot of the same things they use horses for, there wasn't readily available material on how to look after donkeys. This new publication, however, contains the kinds of subtleties you have to be aware of when caring for donkeys."

For example, donkeys have long hair coats that make them look like they are well suited to Alberta winters. "In actual fact," notes Coleman, "Donkeys have a less dense hair coat than a horse has and don't have the same insulating capacity, so the donkey requires more consideration about type of shelter and being kept out of the wet."

The publication, "The Donkey: Care and Feeding" (Agdex 467/20-1), also discusses how to select donkeys and donkey types from miniature to mammoth. Conformation is also detailed.

Sybil Sewell of Leslieville authored the publication. Sewell is a noted Canadian donkey breeder.

The publication is available through the Alberta Agriculture Publications Office at 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6E 4R3.

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Contact: Bob Coleman
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December 31, 1990
For immediate release

# Lactation curves dairy series focus

Identifying opportunities for your dairy farm is the theme of the 1991 provincial dairy series running at five locations through the province January 21 through 25.

Featured speaker at the day-long seminars is Larry Jones of Cornell University. "Dr. Jones is gaining a reputation for his work on lactation curves and what the curves can tell producers about management choices from feeding to breeding and culling," says Brian Rhiness, of Alberta Agriculture's dairy production branch. Jones may be familiar to some Alberta dairy producers, Rhiness adds, as Jones spoke at the 1990 Western Canadian Dairy Seminar.

Seminars will also show producers how to use persistency, somatic cell counts and management indicators.

The seminar locations and dates are as follows: Lethbridge, Sven Ericksen's, January 21; Olds, Duncan Marshall Theatre Olds College, January 22; Leduc Elks Hall, January 23; Vermilion, Lakeland College Animal Science Building, January 24; and, Rycroft, Courtesy Corner, January 25. Each seminar begins with registration at 9:30 a.m. and will finish by approximately 3 p.m.

Pre-registration is required and must be before January 15, 1990. The $15 fee includes lunch.

Information about the seminars is available from local Alberta Agriculture district offices or from any of the regional dairy specialists.

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Contact: Brian Rhiness
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December 31, 1990
For immediate release

## It's not too early for crop planning
(Sixth in a series)

Farm work changes seasonally, but farm business planning should continue year round says an Alberta Agriculture farm management specialist.

"While planning is a continuing activity, winter is a good time for farm decisions makers to concentrate on planning," says Craig Edwards, of the farm business management branch in Olds. "Farmers who want to take a comprehensive farm management course through the winter should register for Alberta Agriculture's Gear Up Advantage course as soon as possible.

"The course is an enjoyable way to learn about production, human resources, financial and marketing planning this winter," he says. Gear Up Advantage includes planning for the whole farm. Information about the course is available from Alberta Agriculture district offices.

Alberta Agriculture also has assistance for farmers not able to attend the course, but who are interested in business planning. "It's sometimes difficult to know where to start, but I want to stress that planning activities and developing written plans is time well spent," Edwards says.

He suggests farmers start with an Alberta Agriculture crop choice worksheet. The worksheet guides the farmer through making a separate budget for each crop, showing variations for different levels of fertilizer application, seeding rates and weed chemicals. It provides a good start for estimating yields, prices and costs, he says.

The worksheets are designed for farmers to use with their own estimates of expected revenues and input costs per crop. The sheets give no typical costs, but provide a format as a reminder of all costs that might be included in the estimates.

Edwards advises making copies of the sheets for every crop the farmer considers growing and to use separate sheets to show high, medium and low input levels.

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It's not too early for crop planning (cont'd)

"The worksheets can be used to compare expected returns (yield times price) over expected variable costs for each crop. Comparing different levels of intensity of production after calculating expected yields and prices for each level will help in the decision of how much to attempt to grow, how to grow the crop and what to grow," Edwards says.

"The factsheet also provides explanations for using the worksheets to the farmer's best advantage as he plans," says the economist. "When completed for each crop, the worksheets provide the basic cost calculations required to make decisions. When the decisions are made, the cost calculations can be summarized for the following year including a projected cash flow."

The factsheet, "Planning With Crop Choice Worksheets" (Agdex 815-2), is available from any Alberta Agriculture district office or from the Publications Office, 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6.

The farm business management branch has also developed two publications as a planning package. One is "Gauge: A Year End Do It Yourself Financial Package" and the other, "Farm Financial Planning Worksheets". These may be available at district offices or from Edwards at the Farm Business Management Branch, Box 2000, Olds, Alberta, T0M 1P0.

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Contact: Craig Edwards
556-4240